Ombudsman dared: Charge FVR for Amari deal

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

Filipino priest wanted in US for abusing girl

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida—Officials have issued an arrest warrant for a former Roman Catholic priest charged with sexually abusing an 8-year-old girl more than two decades ago.

The Rev. Polienato Bernabe, 61, a native of the Philippines, has been charged with capital sexual battery, a felony.

FILIPINO/A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Gov't agent reveals Medel's confession

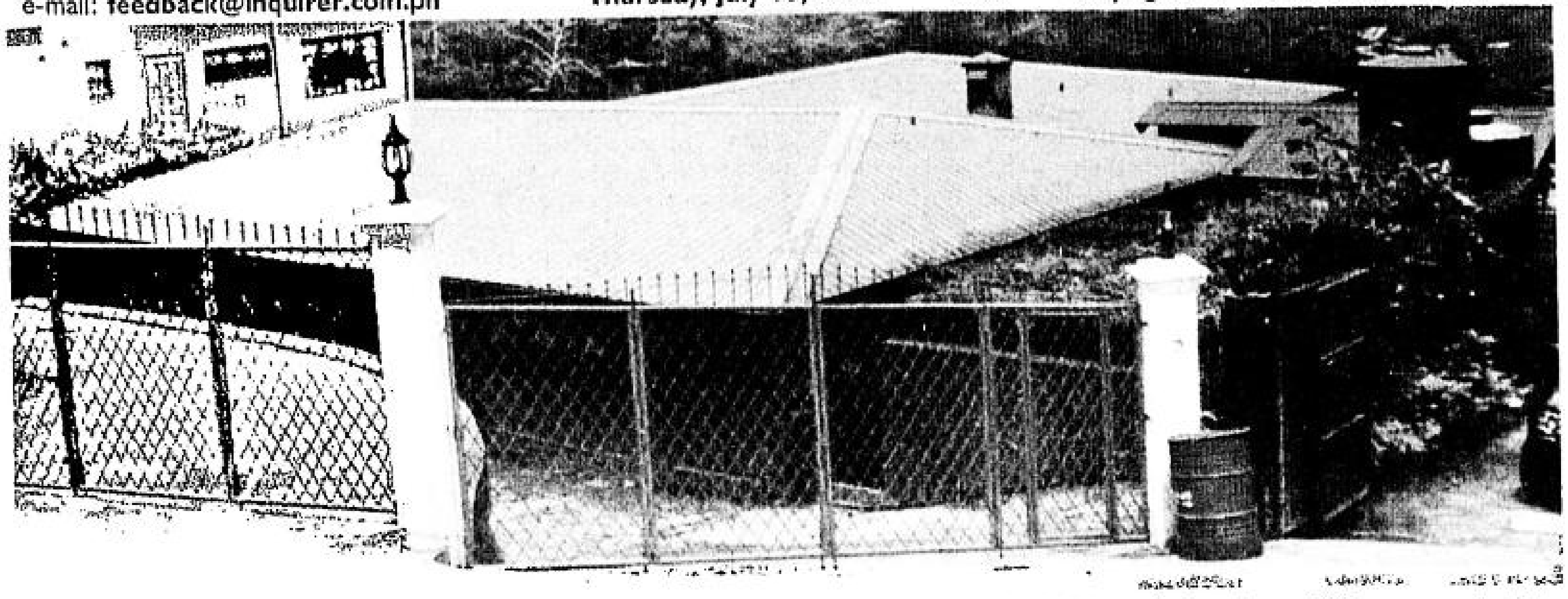
By Blanche S. Rivera

AT THE height of a drunken stupor, Philip Medel Jr., the suspect in the murder of actress Nida Blanca, confessed in lurid detail how he killed the actress for a fee of P1 million.

But he was double-crossed and did not get the amount that was promised

GOV'T/A18

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph   Thursday, July 18, 2002   ★★   48 pages / 5 sections / vol.17 / no. 220   P15   website: www.inq7.net



MOTIVE for murder? The loss of a huge income from property that Nida Blanca owned such as this house in Baguio on a 665-square-meter lot located on South Drive (near Camp John Hay). TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Mom was planning to dump Rod—Kaye

By Jerry Esplanada

WHAT actress Nida Blanca earned from every film she made, 15 percent went to her husband, Rod Strunk.

This was according to Blanca's bookkeeper. Which was another indication of Strunk's total financial dependence on his wife.

And Blanca was fed up.

Shortly before her murder eight months ago, Blanca twice attempted to cut off Strunk's access to her funds, according to the late actress' only child, Katherine Joan "Kaye" Torres.

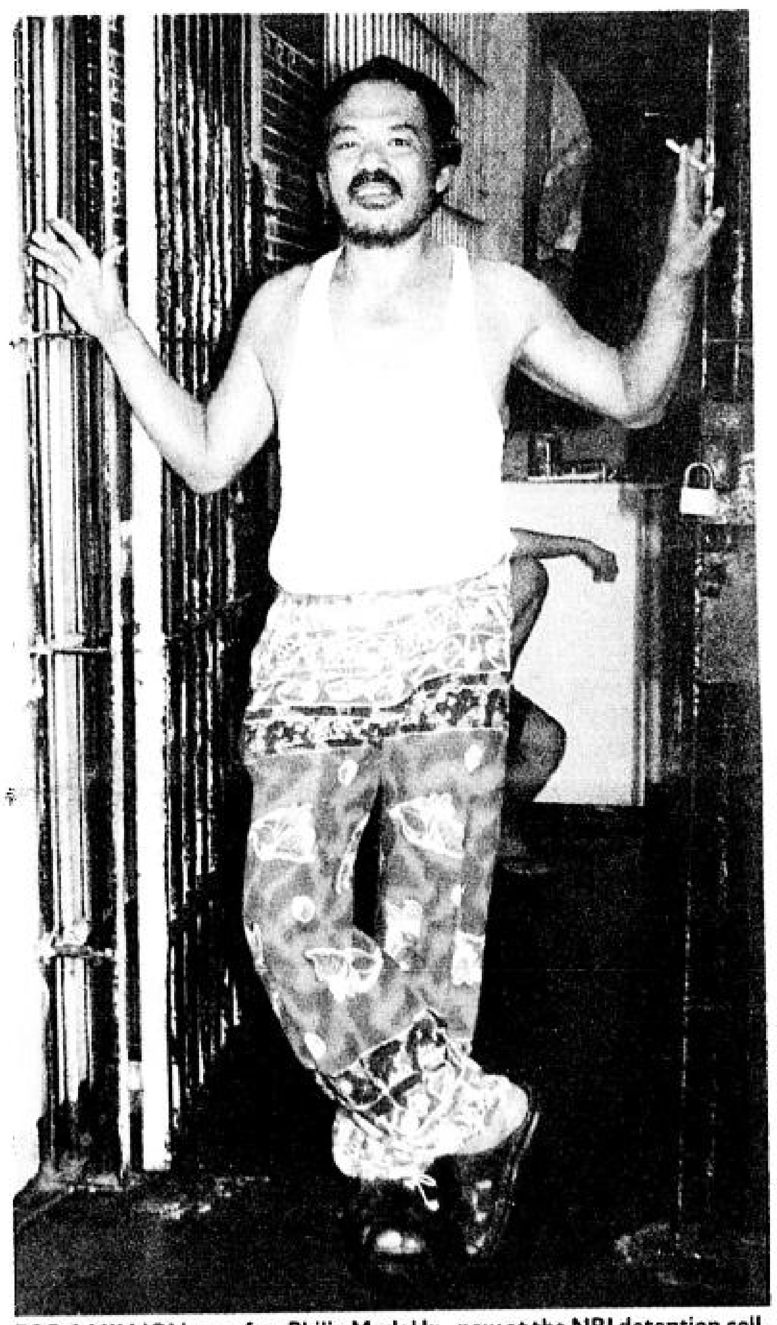
Blanca should have cut off Strunk's access to her finances much earlier, Torres told the INQUIRER in an exclusive interview at her residence.

"Late last year, she finally got to the point of realizing she's had enough. My mom was so damn nice she didn't do it much

MOM/A18

'Rod poked Nida with umbrella'

NBI places mastermind at crime scene



FOR A MILLION peso fee, Philip Medel Jr., now at the NBI detention cell, was allegedly hired to kill Blanca with a Swiss knife purchased by the alleged mastermind, Strunk. ERIK ARAZAS

TOUCHING tableau during the wake for actress Nida Blanca (in photo at the height of her superstardom) with her grieving mother being comforted by her bereaved husband, Rod Strunk. ROMY GACAD/AFP

By Donna S. Cueto and Philip C. Tubeza

AS NIDA BLANCA lay bleeding inside her car, her husband, Roger Lawrence "Rod" Strunk used an umbrella to poke at her body "to see if she was still alive."

This was how National Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco placed Strunk at the crime scene of the murder of the actress eight months ago.

Wycoco announced yesterday that Strunk, the American husband of 22 years of movie actress Nida Blanca, had been charged with parricide in the Department of Justice, after alleged new evidence linked him to the Nov. 7, 2001 sensational murder of his wife.

The loss of his inheritance worth at least P65 million "is the biggest motive," Wycoco said at a press conference at the NBI. "He learned that they were going to be divorced." ***(See story above.)***

"He took advantage of the thought that Nida loved him so much and that she had to carry the burden of keeping him at all cost. Strunk was irresponsible, extremely lazy, extravagant and very fond of drinking," the NBI's formal complaint said.

The NBI also filed murder charges against the alleged hired gunman, Pedro Philip Lucero Medel Jr., who first confessed to killing Blanca but later recanted his confession, claiming that he was tortured by the police.

The NBI also filed murder charges against three others: A "lesbian-looking Jean Doe, a John Doe and other Does."

The three security guards at the Atlanta Center Building in San Juan who were on duty at the time of the murder were also charged with obstruction of justice. The guards, Ricky Alvarez, Roberto Cañete and Diolito Molines, whose shift was from 7 a.m. of Nov. 6,

ROD/A18

Ombudsman dared: Charge FVR for Amari deal

By Donna S. Cueto

FORMER President Fidel Ramos, his former legal counsel and now Sen. Renato Cayetano, and his former government corporate counsel should be investigated and charged with graft in connection with the joint-venture agreement between the Public Estate Authority (PEA) and the Amari Coastal Bay and Development Corp.

This was the dare yesterday of former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez to Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, who is set to retire next month.

Chavez said that this could very well be "Desierto's swan song to show to everyone and sundry that he means business and that he is not beholden to Ramos who appointed him as ombudsman."

"Do the right thing for once, Mr. Ombudsman," he said.

The Supreme Court has voided the PEA-Amari deal, which former Sen. Ernesto Maceda once called the "grandmother of all scams."

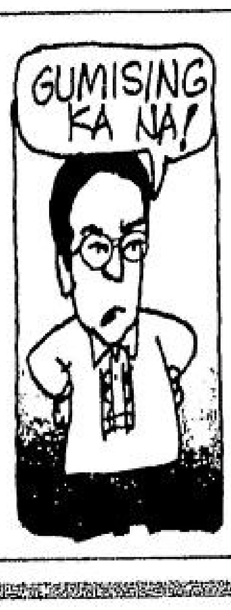
Chavez said former President Joseph Estrada and his former legal counsel should also be included in the graft charge for renegotiating the illegal Ramos administration contract that sought to "sell the sea."

The PEA-Amari deal was first negotiated during the Ramos administration in 1995, and renegotiated during the Estrada administration. It involved the reclamation by Amari of 592.15 hectares of submerged areas of Manila Bay.

Another 157.84 ha from Free

OMBUDSMAN/A15

Kris' affairs distress Aquinos


GUMISING KA NA!

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE AQUINO family is "distressed" over Kris Aquino's controversial love affair with Parañaque City Mayor Joey Marquez.

"It's a replay of the same situation," Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III sighed when the INQUIRER asked him yesterday to comment on his celebrity sister's newest affair.

Aquino was referring to Kris' five-year

KRIS'/A17

Bishop tells lawmakers: Face truth, stop blaming US envoy

A HIGH Church official yesterday called on legislators to stop yelping at US Ambassador Frank Ricciardone and acknowledge the truth of his statement that corruption is widespread in government.

"Corruption has been in the Philippines since I was born, which was sometime in the 1930s. It is endemic in the government structure and is inherited from administration to administration. It's just a matter of 'more' or 'less' in each administration," Archbishop Oscar Cruz, past president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said in Dagupan City.

Even so, Sen. Manuel Villar called on Washington to recall Ricciardone for openly criticizing the state of corruption in his host country.

Sen. Blas F. Ople, touted to become the next foreign secretary, said Ricciardone must apologize to President Macapagal-Arroyo and the Filipino people for what he described were the ambassador's undiplomatic remarks before Manila-based foreign correspondents.

BISHOP/A15

Senate wars derail GMA economic plan

JUST a "temporary setback."

This was how Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura described the political wrangling in the government.

Buenaventura said yesterday that President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic reform agenda should get back on track when Congress resumes sessions next week.

Key legislation was "put into suspended animation" in a quarrel among Ms Macapagal's allies and the opposition for control of the Senate last month, but the Bangko Sentral chief told reporters investors need not worry.

The opposition and administration senators are evenly split in the 24-member Senate following the defection of Sen. John Osmeña to the opposition on June 3.

SENATE/A16

Second FRONT PAGE

SEVEN SACKED COPS

Officers' replacements named

By Blanche S. Rivera

NEW national police chief Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane has named the seven police officials who would replace the officers sacked recently for failing to stop illegal gambling in their jurisdictions.

This as the Commission on Elections received the list of appointees with the view of lifting the barrier to the relief of the seven officers who were sacked during the recent barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan election period.

Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco was named to replace Deputy Director General Edgardo Aglipay in the National Capital Region.

In Central Luzon, Chief Supt. Oscar Calderon was assigned to replace Region III Vice Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya.

In Region IV (Southern Tagalog), Senior Supt. Medardo Apacible was appointed in place of Chief Supt. Domingo Reyes, while Senior Supt. Alejandro Lapinid took over from Director General Avelino Razon in Region VII.

Cebu province will see Senior Supt. Maximo Calimlim replacing Senior Supt. Antonio Salvacion, while in Laguna, Senior Supt. Arnulfo Espiritu will take the place of Senior Supt. Leonilo de la Cruz.

En banc meet

In Manila, the Western Police District will be headed by Senior Supt. Pedro Bulaong, replacing Vice Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasiños.

Abalos said the Comelec en banc would tackle the issue of personnel movement next week after the commissioners shall have finished monitoring post-election developments.

The en banc convenes every Tuesday, except in emergencies.

The Comelec had blocked the relief of the seven police officers because of the ban on the movement of civil service officials or employees during election period, in this case from May 30 to July 31.

House probe

The seven were relieved for allegedly failing to stop jueteng, an illegal numbers game, in their areas of responsibility.

Ebdane had asked that the sacked officers be assigned to Headquarters Support Services while they were on floating status.

The House of Representatives might formally step into the dismissal of the seven senior police officials by Interior Secretary Jose Lina.

In a news conference at the Manila Hotel yesterday, Palawan Rep. Vicente Sandoval called the revamp hasty and said it did not only violate due process but also compromised the government's peace and order drive.

Lawmakers might also investigate the possible violation by Lina of civil service and election laws when he ordered the ouster of the seven during an election period, Sandoval said.

The congressman told reporters he would initiate the investigation with the view of clipping any abuse of power by the National Police Commission, which has supervision over the PNP and which had recommended the sacking of the seven officers.

Sandoval said he would file a resolution on the matter this week before the House committee on public order and safety.

He pointed out the law is specific in that no government official or employee could be transferred, removed or suspended during elections. *With Jerome Aning*

₱50-M Tabang Mindanaw fund accounted for

A RANKING Malacañang official said yesterday the P50 million ousted President Joseph Estrada gave to the Tabang Mindanaw humanitarian project has been accounted for, including P15,495,288.79 that has yet to be spent.

In a report to former ambassador Howard Dee, Tabang co-chair Erlinda M.B. de Leon, special assistant to the President and acting head of the President's Social Fund, said that as of Jan. 31, 2002, P35,172,882.25 had been spent for the rehabilitation of people affected by war in Mindanao.

In a May 22 letter, a copy of which was released to newsmen by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, De Leon said the P50 million even earned interest of P668,171.04.

As for the remaining P15 million, she said this would be spent on food relief (P6,121,080), free treatment at the Notre Dame Hospital charity ward (P2.1 million), integrated return and rehabilitation program (P4.9 million) and logistical support (P1.1 million).

Tabang Mindanaw is a non-profit task force established by business, civic and church organizations in 1998 to assist the victims of the El Niño weather phenomenon and the victims of the war in Mindanao.

In a January financial audit report, Tabang's chief implementor—the Assisi Development Foundation Inc. and the Ayala Foundation Inc.—said the lion's share of the P35 million had gone to relief operations.

The audit team said the P20,740,308 spent for relief operations in Cotabato, Kidapawan, Iligan, Sulu, Marbel and Ipil benefited 111,110 families. *Armand N. Nocum*

Bunye daughter quits as Mike Arroyo's mouthpiece

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THIS is one way to spell delicadeza.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's spokesperson resigned yesterday after her father was appointed the new press secretary.

Lawyer Patricia Bunye said she didn't want people to think that she and her father, Ignacio Bunye, had "cornered the market."

Patricia told the INQUIRER by phone that she had discussed the matter with Arroyo yesterday morning. They agreed that a father-and-daughter team speaking for the First Couple might fuel criticism.

Her resignation took effect immediately. Presidential assistant secretary Isabel de Leon has been asked to take her place.

In her letter, Patricia described her 11-month stint with the First Gentleman as a "very challenging" highlight of her career, although she was not employed as a lawyer.

Arroyo hired Bunye last August when he was implicated in a bribery scandal over a botched telecommunications clearinghouse deal, and President Macapagal-Arroyo gave orders for him to stay away from media.

On his first day in Malacañang on Tuesday, Secretary Bunye said he had no problem having his daughter for a co-worker, because they were "in perfect synch." But in yesterday's briefing, when asked about his daughter's decision, he said Patricia had a mind of her own.

Bunye was also asked about his political plans, amid persistent talk that his latest appointment had been part of efforts to break the impasse in the Senate.

Reds: GMA demeaning office with insults

By C.O. Avendaño

ABU Sayyaf lovers, termites and now communists.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said yesterday President Macapagal-Arroyo was demeaning the presidency with her penchant for calling her critics names.

"I advise her not to demean the presidency by resorting to name-calling," Ocampo said. "I hope she desists from doing that. Name-calling doesn't solve anything."

But, Ocampo said, Bayan Muna and other militant organizations would continue to engage the President in debates on the issues.

Ocampo was reacting to the President's statement that most of civil society supports her, except for the "communists."

While Ms Macapagal did not identify the groups she was referring to, she had previously called Bayan Muna leaders communists.

Other militant groups like Kilusang Mayo Uno have called for Ms Macapagal's ouster.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran said that if it were only the communists who didn't support the Macapagal administration, then there are a lot of communists out there.

Beltran said there are 16 to 19 million Filipinos who cannot find jobs in the country who make up almost 40 percent of the labor force.

"We can count on all these Filipinos to be dissatisfied with the administration," said Beltran, who also heads the KMU.

He said that "if the President's logic that only communists did not support her administration were to be followed, then there are really a lot of communists out there."

Beltran said it was dangerous for Ms Macapagal to label her political opponents "communists."

"It is very much as if she's calling for an communist witch-hunt, and everyone who's not a GMA fan would be prey," he said.

Beltran said the President should blame herself, her advisers and the policies she insists on implementing. "All the Left has done is to help expose these," he said.

Teodoro Casiño, secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), said "only a tiny minority at Edsa II were pro-Macapagal."

Casiño reminded the President that "the majority at Edsa were neither pro-GMA nor communists but Filipinos demanding good government and meaningful change."

"At the same time only a tiny minority were clearly in favor of her assumption to office. Most people just let events take their course, she being the Vice President," Casiño said.

He said Ms Macapagal had a penchant for name-calling when confronted by criticism. "Recall the Abu Sayyaf lover and anti-Filipino tags she pinned on Balikatan critics?" he said. And more recently there was the "termite" tag she gave to civil society group members opposed to her administration. *With Gerald G. Lucuarta*

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ELECTRICITY PRICE WATCH

POWER RATES HAVE STARTED TO DECLINE as President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo implements her 10-Point Plan to reduce electricity rates that would give relief to electric consumers.

One of her 10-Point Plan is to:

- ACCELERATE THE OPERATION OF A COMPETITIVE WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY SPOT MARKET (WESM)

What is this wholesale electricity spot market?

The liberalization of the country's power sector as stated in the Electric Power Industry Reform Act requires the establishment of a Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM).

Under a deregulated environment, electricity will be traded electronically on an hourly basis. Its operation is likened to the stock market or a public wet market where we are buying and selling commodities.

In WESM, the industry participants particularly generation companies will submit offers to sell energy by offering it for sale at a certain price on an hourly basis. A generator which would like to receive priority dispatch of electricity into the system, should submit a very low price offer. Price offers received by the WESM will be ranked accordingly from the lowest to highest. Suppliers submitting very high price offers may run the risk of not being dispatched given the forecasted demand for the hour.

Why do we need to operate a WESM?

Empower Consumers to Choose the Kind of Electricity They Need at the Cheapest Cost

With WESM in place, consumers- initially large industrial and commercial customers-through their suppliers will someday be empowered to choose electricity that best suit their requirements. Industries or companies that support environmental concerns will have an option to source power from environment-friendly energy sources such as wind, hydro and natural gas. Given a liberalized environment wherein market forces determine the price of electricity, electric consumers will someday have a wide range of choices on where to get the cheapest price of power.

Facilitate Transparent Transaction for Bilateral Contracts

In a regulated environment, the generation cost of electricity was solely determined by the two contracting parties (the generator and the distributor) wherein the generator agrees to produce electricity at a certain level which will be bought by a distributor at a fixed cost. The agreed contracted price was further evaluated by then Energy Regulatory Board and passed on to the end-consumers. In contrast, the operation of the WESM will provide pricing benchmarks for contracts that will enable industries to effectively negotiate for reasonable and competitive power rates that will ultimately be passed on to consumers.

Provide Transparency for the Dispatch of the Most Economical Cost of Power

The WESM will pave the way for a transparent and economical dispatch of plants based on a merit dispatch order that gives priority to the least cost of power. This in effect will encourage competition and efficiencies in the generation of electric power, which will eventually result in lower rates for consumers.

How can we accelerate the operations of the WESM?

The WESM Rules, which spell in detail the implementing guidelines governing the establishment and operations of the WESM, had been promulgated and will take effect on July 21, 2002.

The Department of Energy (DoE) is expected to set up, by the fourth quarter of this year, an Interim Market to initially start the operations of the WESM. A year from its interim operations, we hope to see the full implementation of the electricity spot market.

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Department of Agrarian Reform
Adjudication Board (DARAB)
Annex Bldg., DAR Central Office Cmpd., Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that decisions/resolutions were promulgated by the Honorable Board in the following cases on the date indicated:

DARAB Case No.	Title	Date Promulgated
3944 (Resolution)	Percelino Binas vs. Benjamin Bautista	January 15, 2001
8019 (Decision)	Manuel Benasa et. al. vs. Apolinario Evangelista et. al.	January 17, 2001
4945 (Decision)	Cynthia Javelosa et. al. vs. Carolina Guardialao	May 18, 1998
6164-6176 (Decision)	Rolem Farriquer vs. DAR, PARO et. al.	January 17, 2001
8515-8518 (Decision)	Mariveles Alas-Asin Old Residence Association vs. Jacinto Irog et. al.	February 7, 2001

Counsels and parties to these cases, particularly the following persons:

DARAB Case No.	Party/Counsel	Last known Address
3944	Percelino Binas	Hda. Balas Brgy. E. Lopez Silay City, Negros Occidental
8019	Manuel Benasa	Echague, Isabela
4945	Cynthia Javelosa	Arguelles Extension Jaro, Iloilo City
	Atty. Maximo Cartera	Baloy St. Alta Tierra Villa Jaro, Iloilo City
6164-6176	Bernardo Aungon	Tulay, Odiongan, Romblon
8515-8518	Romeo Herrera	Alas-Asin, Mariveles, Bataan
	Lilia Asegurado	Alas-Asin, Mariveles, Bataan

are hereby advised to get a copy of the decision from the DARAB Secretariat, DAR Adjudication Board, Diliman, Quezon City. After the lapse of thirty (30) days from the date of posting on this notice, without any Motion for Reconsideration or Petition for Review being filed an Entry of Judgment shall be made and the decision on these cases shall become final and executory.

July 10, 2002, Diliman, Quezon City

Acting Executive Director
DARAB Secretariat

SSS members can't avail of calamity loans

By Agnes E. Donato

MEMBERS of the Social Security System who were adversely affected by the recent rains and typhoons cannot avail of calamity loans from the pension fund, SSS president and chief executive officer Corazon de la Paz said yesterday.

In a radio interview, De la Paz said this was because the SSS fund has shrunk so much, it could no longer afford to make calamity loans.

She said many members who had previously taken out calamity loans have also failed to repay them.

In a telephone interview, SSS assistant vice president for media affairs Joel Palacios told the INQUIRER the pension fund had actually stopped making calamity loans since 2000, upon the recommendation of the Social Security Commission.

Members affected by calamities used to be able to borrow P8,000.

"We are well aware of the financial situation of the SSS. Funds are expected to run out by 2015 if the contribution rate is not raised soon," Palacios said. "This is why we are carefully watching our disbursements."

The SSS has a standing petition for an 18 to 22 percent increase in its rate of contribution or the amount collected from employers and their employees.

Palacios stressed, however, that SSS members could still avail of salary loans and death and retirement benefits, as these were availed of most by its members.

"Few members would be able to avail of calamity loans anyway," Palacios said, since applicants are required to present a Department of Social Welfare and Development certification that they were victims of disaster in a place declared as being under a state of calamity by the President.

Palacios said that since its institution in 1984, the calamity loan fund has only given out a total of P8.8 million to SSS members.

At the same time, businessmen were up in arms against the SSS order making employers guarantors of their employees' loans.

With Gil Cabacungan

MLSA to be signed during Powell visit

By Christine Herrera

THE MUTUAL Logistics Services Agreement (MLSA) would likely be signed when US Secretary of State Colin Powell arrives in the Philippines next month, Department of Foreign Affairs officials said yesterday.

Senior Undersecretary Lauro Baja Jr. said the DFA has been officially informed by the State Department that Powell would be arriving on Aug. 2 on the last leg of his swing through Southeast Asia.

King Sorreta of the DFA Office of American Affairs said Powell's visit to the Philippines had been "planned way before."

"When President Macapagal-Arroyo visited the United States in November last year, she extended the invite to Powell. And Powell agreed to come here," Sorreta said. "They will discuss international terrorism and security, among other concerns."

Baja said the hour-long meeting last Tuesday between the President and DFA senior officials did not cover the issue of the MLSA.

However, another ranking DFA official who requested anonymity said, the Philippines could not just ignore American Ambassador Frank Ricciardone's public statement that the US government hoped to see the MLSA signed when Powell arrived in the country.

The US government has said it wants the MLSA signed so it could decide whether to leave behind the logistics it transported to the Philippines for the Balikatan joint military exercises in Luzon and Mindanao.

The MLSA would also allow the US to put up storage and supply facilities in the country to help in its international war on terrorism.

"We don't need to wait for a new DFA secretary for the MLSA to be signed. The President could assign who she wants to sign the agreement on behalf of the DFA," the foreign affairs official said.

On the Philippine side, those involved in working out the agreement with the Americans were the Departments of Justice, Defense and Foreign Affairs.

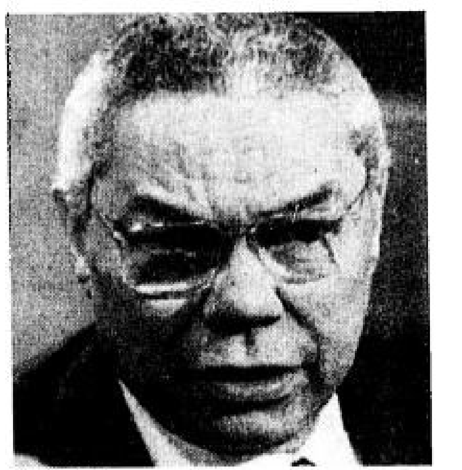
Recently resigned DFA Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. was reportedly adamant about not signing the MLSA until any provisions in it that would allow Americans basing rights in the country were scrapped.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes has repeatedly denied the draft agreement contained such provisions, saying there were "no sinister and no unconstitutional" provisions in the draft.

Sorreta, for his part, said Ms Macapagal's assumption of the DFA leadership did not mean the MLSA would be fast-tracked.

"There is a process that we are observing. There is no fast-tracking it because there is no change in that process," he said.

The DFA source said the reason Ms Macapagal did not discuss the MLSA during the hour-long meeting with DFA officials on Tuesday was that she wanted to discuss the subject only with the officials involved in the drafting of the agreement.



POWELL

SBC award stirs furor

TWO prominent academicians are protesting an award that San Beda College (SBC) is set to give Mohamed Dzaiddin Abdulla, chief justice of the Supereme Court of Malaysia.

The Bedan community will award Dzaiddin the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, at a special academic convocation tomorrow.

During the event, SBC will also honor the first batch of lawyers it graduated in 1952.

The protestors are Edilberto de Jesus, president of the Far Eastern University, and Jose Abueva, former president of the University of the Philippines and now president of Kalayaan Colleges.

In a "statement of deep concern," De Jesus and Abueva said, "Dzaiddin presides over a judiciary denounced by Malaysian human rights advocates for its handling of the trials of former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Abrahim."

By giving Dzaiddin an undeserved award, De Jesus and Abueva said, SBC would diminish the tribute for its own alumni.

Golez calls Cardeño rap 'sick, sinister'

AN INCENSED National Security Adviser Roilo Golez bristled yesterday at the claim of the principal suspect in the murder of self-styled military spokesperson Baron Cervantes that he and Pastor "Boy" Saycon of the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa) had masterminded Cervantes' killing.

"The statement of Col. Rafael Cardeño is sick, sinister, deplorable and true to form. It is apparent his ploy is to divert attention away from the serious accusation that he masterminded the killing of Bong Cervantes and to delay the preliminary investigation being conducted by the Department of Justice," Golez said.

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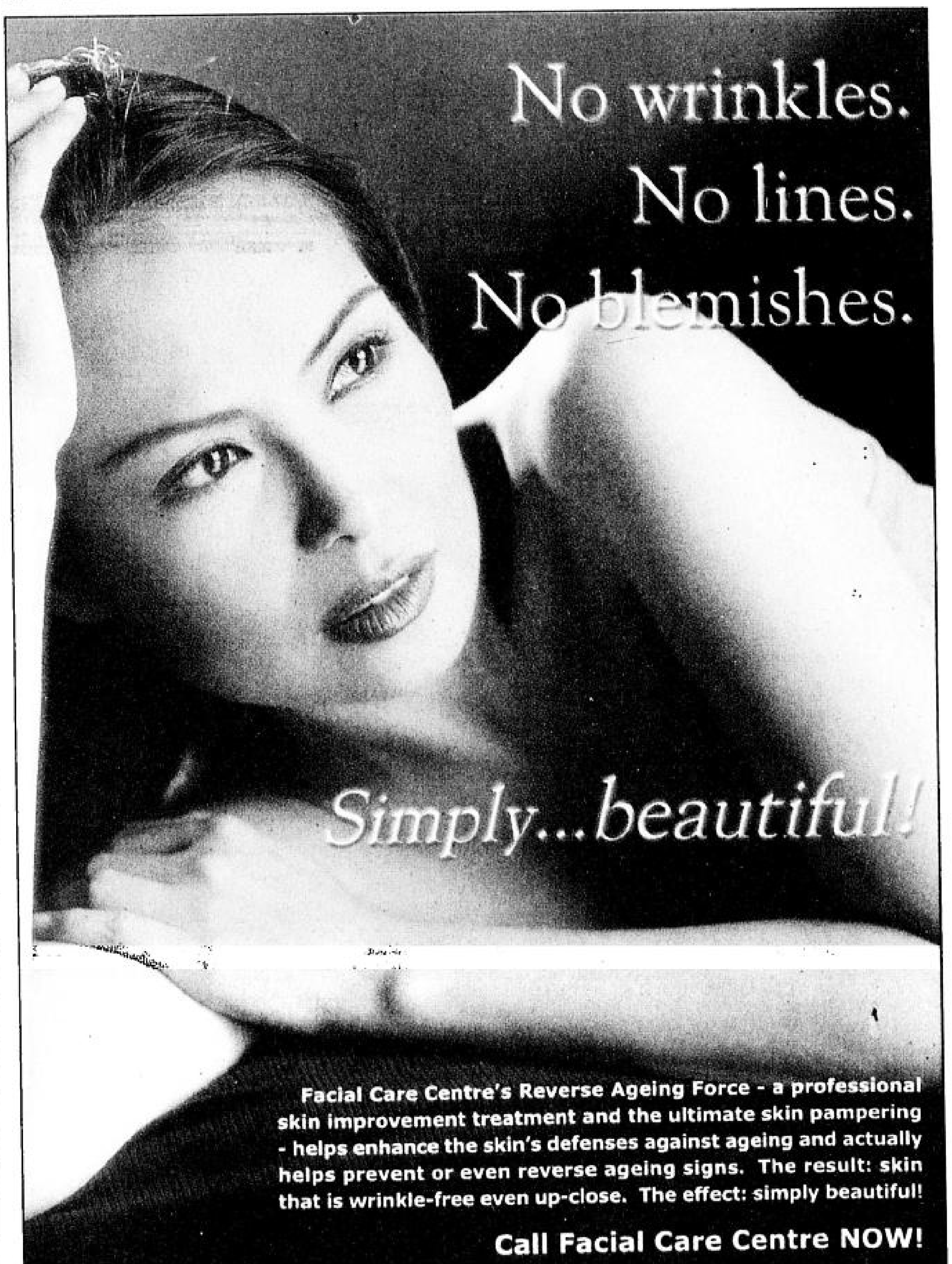
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Jakarta won't protest jailing of terror suspect

JAKARTA—Indonesia respects Philippine law and will not ask the Philippines to acquit an Indonesian convicted for illegal possession of explosives, Foreign Minister Hassan Wirayuda said yesterday.

A Philippine court last week sentenced Agus Dwikarna to at least 10 years in jail after finding him "guilty beyond reasonable doubt" of possessing C-4 plastic explosives.

"We have international conventions to honor, including the law of another country. If we ask them (the Philippines) to free Agus it means we interfere in another country's legal affairs," Wirayuda said.

Several Muslim groups in Indonesia have protested Dwikarna's conviction.

Activist Eggi Sudjana, quoted by Indonesian media, said he and hundreds of others may occupy the Philippine embassy here on Friday in protest "if the Indonesian government is not serious in helping to get Agus released."

Wirayuda said Jakarta had urged the Philippine government not to deny Dwikarna his right to a legal defense.

Dwikarna was arrested at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila on March 12 along with two other Indonesians who have since been released.

He was accused by the justice department of involvement in a bomb blast in Manila on Dec. 30, 2000 and of an explosion that wounded the Philippine ambassador to Indonesia at his home in Jakarta in August 2000. **AFP**

Sef makes video court appearance

SEF Gonzales, the 21-year-old Filipino immigrant who has been charged for the murders last year of his parents and sister, briefly faced a Sydney court via video link yesterday.

Australia's Daily Telegraph newspaper reported that Gonzales, a law student at the University of NSW (New South Wales), did not apply for bail during yesterday's pre-trial hearing.

The Telegraph said his lawyer, Dieb Khoury, told the Central Local Court that his client would apply for bail after the police presents its summary of evidence.

During an earlier court appearance, Gonzales pleaded not guilty to three counts of murder. The pre-trial hearing resumes on Aug. 14. In the meantime, Gonzales remains in custody at a remand center.

Gonzales was arrested on June 13 after police searched his home in Sydney's northern suburbs. He was questioned and later charged with the murders of his family.

His father, Teodoro, 46, mother, Mary, 43, and sister, Clodine, 18, were found murdered on the evening of July 10, 2001 inside their two-story brick house in North Ryde. The throats of both women had been slit.

At the time, Gonzales said he discovered the bodies in the early hours of July 11 upon returning home from a night out with friends. He then alerted his neighbors and police.

A lawyer and a devout Catholic, Teddy Gonzales brought his family to Australia in 1991. He later set up a successful legal practice specializing in immigration matters.

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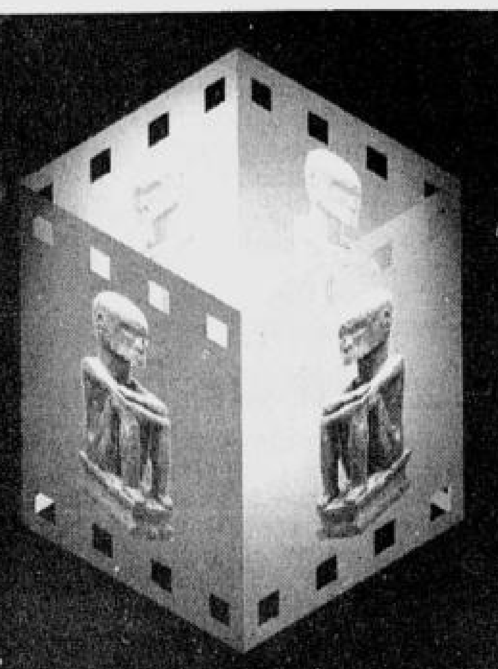

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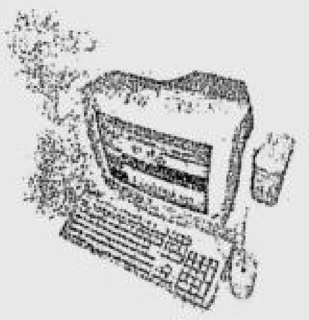

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Pinoys lead US deportees

FILIPINOS account for the highest number of Asians deported from the United States since the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

Statistics released by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) showed that 416 Filipinos were deported from Oct. 2001 to May 2002, excluding the 63 returned to the Philippines last June 24.

There were 458 Filipino deportees during the whole of the 2001 fiscal year.

The number comprised the bulk of Asian deportees for the period as even China, which reputably has the biggest number of immigrants among ethnic minorities at about 2.5 million, only had 313 deportees from October 2001 to May 2002. ***Chandler E. Ramas III, Contributor***

More cheap rice from NFA

THE NATIONAL Food Authority is prepared to flood the market with cheap rice to prevent traders from taking advantage of the recent typhoons and the traditional lean months by manipulating prices.

The NFA has increased its daily sale of rice from 75,120 bags to 93,385 bags from July to September.

NFA Administrator Anthony Abad said NFA rice priced at P14 per kilogram would assure consumers that they would be protected from undue price increases.

Some rice lands have been ravaged by typhoons while farmers usually use the lean-month period of July to September for planting. ***Christine Gaylican***

Chavit begins anti-Erap testimony

By Volt Contreras

THE MAN who "started it all" almost did not make it to the witness stand yesterday.

But when he finally did, former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson made the most of his allotted time to deliver an old, yet apparently better rehearsed testimony against his former friend deposed President Joseph Estrada.

State prosecutors who openly accused Estrada's lawyers of delaying Singson's appearance managed to present their witness just 30 minutes before the 1 p.m. adjournment.

Showing no emotion, the 61-year-old former governor told the court that his friendship with Estrada went all the way back to the latter's years as a movie actor. Singson's mother had been a movie producer.

With Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo conducting the direct examination, Singson's opening statements showed that Estrada began to have links to the gambling underworld just weeks after taking his oath as President.

One evening in August 1998, Singson recounted, he was called to Estrada's Polk Street residence in San Juan where the Chief Executive and Charlie "Atong" Ang were in the kitchen.

Singson, who was allowed to testify in Pilipino, said the two were discussing which provinces were to be tapped as sources of jueteng protection money.

Later that night, Singson said, Bong Pineda, a suspected jueteng kingpin in Central Luzon, arrived and joined the meeting.

Singson quoted Estrada as telling Pineda: "You'd better stop bringing the money personally. Just give it to Atong or Chavit. Because Chavit is a governor, it won't be too obvious."

The witness' narrative then jumped to the following day, when Ang allegedly called another meeting, this one "with his (jueteng) operators in his office" near the municipal hall of San Juan.

Singson said he was present at that second meeting, too, where Ang and the operators "haggled over how much should be given to Estrada."

In post-hearing interviews, defense lawyers immediately cited weaknesses in Singson's testimony, such as the lack of supporting proof or eyewitness accounts.

China buildup no cause for alarm, Golez says

By TJ Burgonio

REPORTS that China has been building structures in the Spratly Islands for the past four years to fortify its claims on the oil-rich area should not be cause for alarm, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said yesterday.

Military buildup among the world's superpowers was "common," Golez said in a press briefing. He assured the public that Philippine authorities were closely monitoring movements in the Spratlys.

The Associated Press had earlier reported that China had installed communications equipment, organized a military unit for better surveillance, and staged large-scale exercises for the past four years to fortify its claims on the islands.

Parts of the Spratlys are also being claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam.

Quoted as the source of the AP report was a Philippine military intelligence assessment of "China's Expansionism in Southeast Asia," describing the territorial disputes as "the greatest potential flash point for conflict" in the region.

Disclosure of the confidential report followed a US Defense Department announcement that the Chinese military presence in the islands was rapidly growing. *With a report from AP*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, July 18, 2002
15th Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19
Gospel: Mt 11:28-30

Jesus spoke thus, "Come to me, all you who work hard and who carry heavy burdens and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble of heart; and you will find rest. For my yoke is good and my burden is light."

Commentary

Pain (any pain—emotional, physical, mental) has a message. Once we get the pain's message, and follow its advice, the pain goes away. Today there are many tired people in the world who carry heavy loads. People tired of hoping, tired of fighting. Like never before our cities have become cages difficult to escape from. We want to move around freely but the traffic and the cost of living enslaves us, making any move difficult. The crowds, instead of providing us company, deepen our solitude. Persons without friends are more inclined to depression and despair. The invitation of Jesus makes sense. He invites us to a personal encounter with him. He offers us his friendship. "Come to me" he says. He may not relieve us from the load but he will provide the means to carry it.

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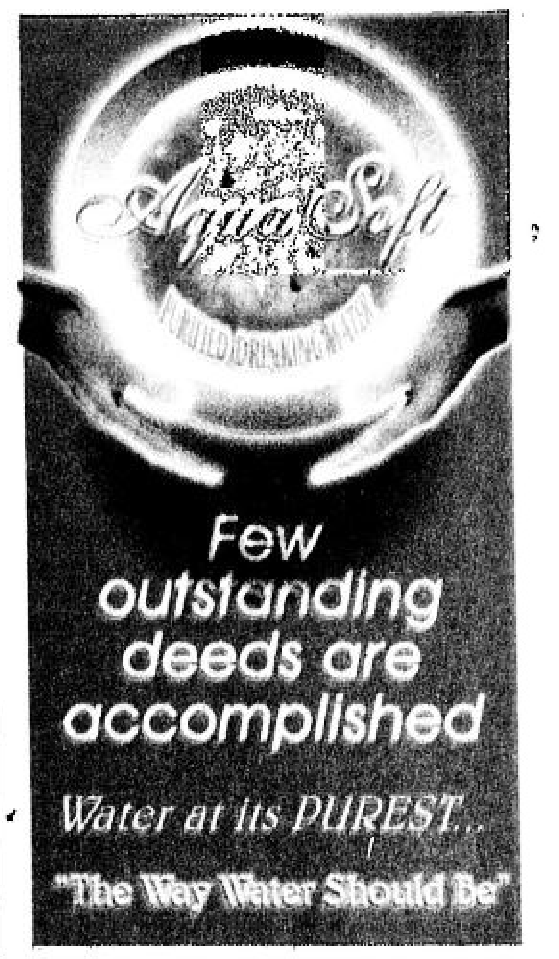

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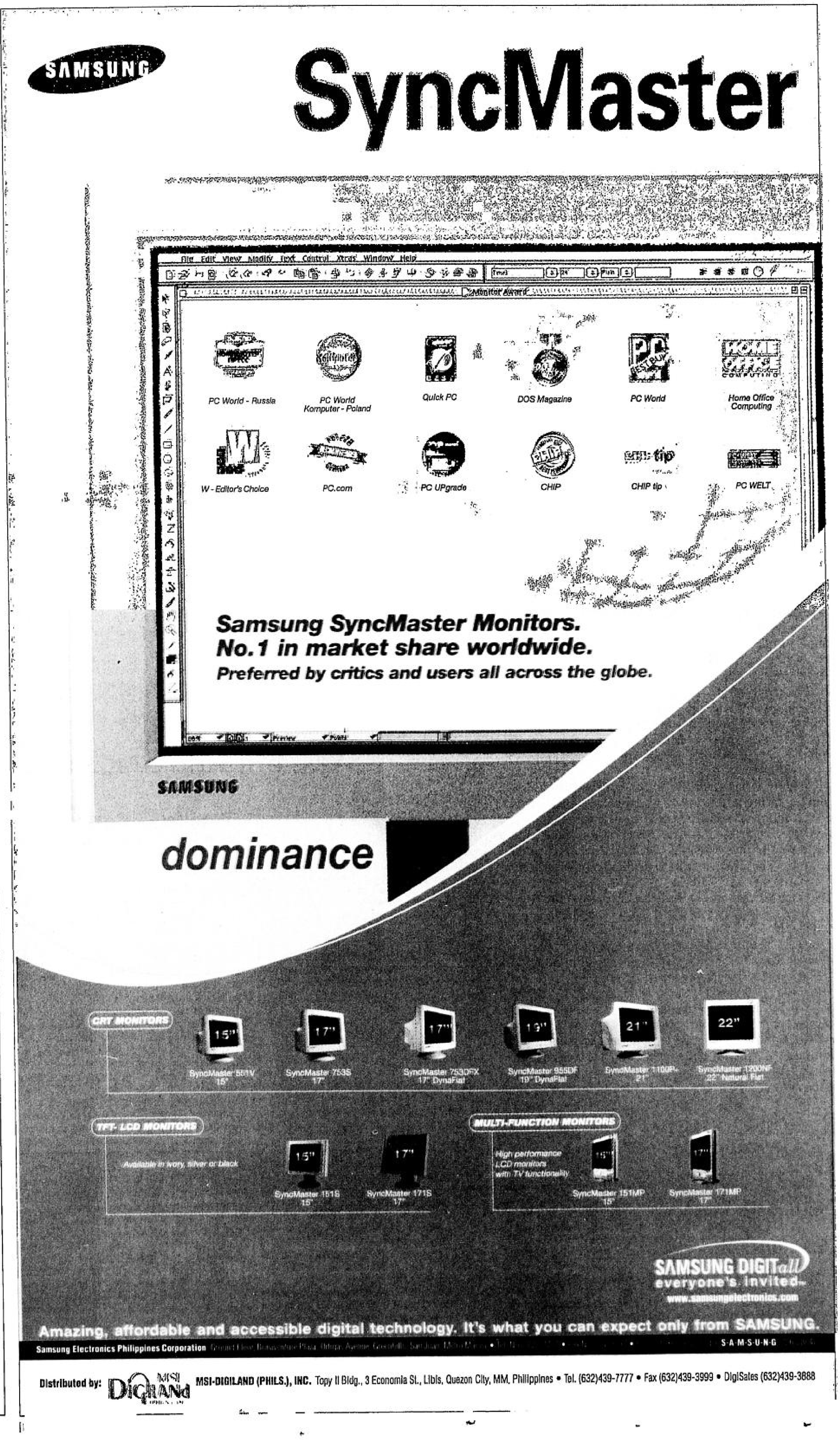

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INQUIRER

Vol. 17 No. 220
ISSN
0116-2642

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

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THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2002

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
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•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editoral Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 /
528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

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The dirty 'C' word

Editorial

AMERICAN Ambassador to the Philippines Frank Ricciardone stirred up a political tempest when he said that corruption was discouraging foreign investment from coming into the country. Speaking before the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines on Monday, Ricciardone denounced corruption as the foremost barrier to investment and stressed the need for equal access to the judicial system by both Filipinos and foreigners.

Ricciardone focussed on the corruption problem in the context of the discussion of why the Philippines is losing in the race to attract foreign investment. Alongside corruption, he also cited constitutional restrictions on foreign investments as another obstacle to the inflow of foreign investments.

The US ambassador said nothing startling or new about corruption. In a Social Weather Stations survey done in December 2000, 72 percent of Filipinos described the amount of corruption in the government to be "very large or somewhat large." In another SWS survey done in March 2001, after the Macapagal administration took power, 49 percent of Filipinos believed there was "a great deal" of corruption in the public sector. A significant insight is that more Filipinos (75 percent) thought corruption was bad because "it hurts national development" rather than because it was "immoral." The ambassador's focus on the judiciary is misplaced. Of all the public institutions of the country, it is probably the only place where judicial reforms aimed at curbing corruption in the judiciary are under way. Since the Estrada administration, the Supreme Court has served as the pilot area of the Action for Judicial Reform program supported by the World Bank.

With so many Filipinos acknowledging its malignant presence, Ricciardone didn't need to belabor the point of corruption. What has offended some Filipinos is that a foreigner, no less an envoy of a foreign government, has called attention to corruption as a formidable obstacle to economic growth and development.

Filipinos are ultra-sensitive to being reminded by foreigners about what's wrong with their society, culture and government but they are not willing to get rid of the malaise. In taking umbrage at the ambassador, many Filipinos are raising the issue of foreign interference as if it would make our culture less corrupt by condemning the bearer of bad news.

The fault of the American ambassador probably stems from the fact that he was not prudent enough to keep his mouth shut over the dirty and unmentionable "C" word. But then his statement was prompted by questions put to him during an open forum, and his answers were candid, repeating what many Filipinos—in both the private and public sectors—have said.

His remarks have provoked reactions that tend to paper over the corruption issue. They have at least provoked some grandstanding Filipino politicians to demand that he be declared persona non grata for telling us in our faces that if we don't put our house in order, we will continue to backslide as Asia's basket case.

Sen. Blas F. Ople said that with his statements the US ambassador had exceeded the bounds of diplomatic courtesy and abused our hospitality. Ople has certainly not squandered the opportunity to project himself as a champion of Filipino nationalism and promote his credentials as foreign secretary, a post which he very obviously covets.

Reverse signal

Foreign Comment

POLITICS is a murderous business in Afghanistan.

The attack to which Vice President Abdul Qadir succumbed just provides new evidence of this old state of affairs, which still holds true in the new Afghanistan.

Qadir was the third minister this year to be the target of an attack.

The fact that the two previous attacks failed to halt the country's new start was, for all the concern about stability, a kind of encouraging sign.

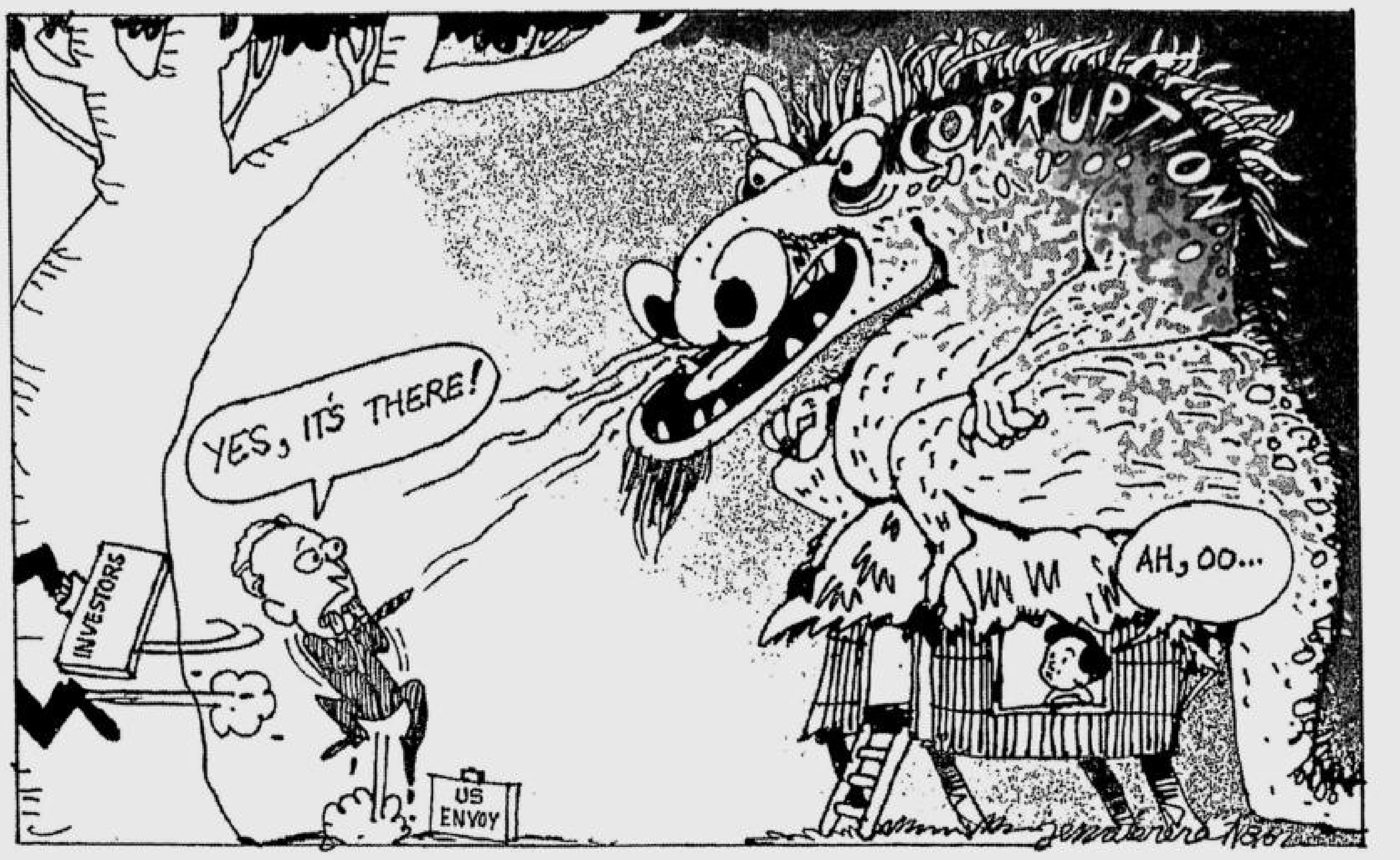
But the killing of Qadir could destroy such confidence.

The Pashtun from Jalalabad was a key figure in the concept of President Hamid Karzai to unify the country.

In June, Karzai managed to persuade Qadir to leave his power base in the east and put himself at the service of the government in Kabul—a signal to the other warlords and provincial rulers.

But the murder reverses the signal. It will reinforce local powerbrokers' desire to keep their distance from the dangerous capital.

Sueddeutsche Zeitung (Munich, Germany)



US envoy only telling the truth

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

WHY get sore at US Ambassador Frank Ricciardone for being frank? Filipinos themselves know that corruption is very bad in the Philippines. Ricciardone was only telling the truth. But Filipino lawmakers don't want foreigners telling them the truth about corruption. They feel alluded to.

The reaction to Ricciardone's frank talk is reminiscent of the reactions to actress Claire Dane's statement that Manila was "dirty and smelly." That raised the hackles of Manila society.

But isn't Metro Manila really dirty and smelly? You see the dirt and smell the stink every day. But Filipinos don't want foreigners telling them what they already know. It is a defense mechanism. It is as if the dirty and the stink go away if you don't talk about them. But they don't. They're still there. It is just that our eyes and noses are deadened by the constant assault on them and it is as if the dirt and the smell aren't there. Until your mind is pricked by somebody mentioning them.

It is the same with corruption. Everybody knows it's there. The people, from the lowly driver to the wealthy businessman, have to deal with it every day. But as long as nobody mentions it, corruption doesn't exist.

There is a saying that he who protests too much is guilty. And who is protesting too much Ricciardone's statement? The congressmen and senators. Rank the different branches of government on corruption and Congress will be at the top of the totem pole. "Pork barrel" is already synonymous with corruption.

The US ambassador is like the boy who said the emperor had no clothes. All the sycophants say corruption is not so bad in the Philippines. It requires a foreigner—like the boy—to see and say how bad it is.

Ask any businessman, Filipino or foreigner, doing business in the Philippines, and he will tell you how bad it is. Everybody is on the take. Nothing moves unless you grease every palm stretched out before you. That is why local prices are very high. Businessmen have to recover from their customers the bribes that they give out.

The Supreme Court says that it is "addressing corruption in the judiciary," that it is weeding out the "hoodlums in robes." Obviously that is not enough. The Court must do more. Corruption is getting worse not only in the courts but also in the quasi-judicial agencies. Some say it has already reached the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court itself.

This is unacceptable. For the judiciary is the last hope of the people to get justice. If it, too, falls victim to corruption, then God have mercy on our society.

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Here is one example of possible corruption on a mega scale. Do you know that Impsa (Industries Metalurgicas Pescarmona Sociedad Anomina), the Argentine conglomerate contracted by the Philippines to rehabilitate and operate the moribund Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan (CBK) power plant project, has been paid P1.34 billion for nothing?

Impsa, through its Philippine subsidiary CBK Power Corp., has been engaged in rehabilitation work—or so the company claims—particularly on Kalayaan, which is most in need of rehabilitation.

Financial records of the CBK contract show that the government paid CBK Power Corp. about P1.34 billion for the period of March 2001 to May 2002 as "capital recovery fees" for work purportedly completed at Kalayaan. Payments were made on the strength of a certificate of completion issued by Asisclo Gonzaga, president of Transco, the company spin-off from the National Power Corp. that will take charge of power transmission.

But to begin with, Gonzaga does not have any authority to issue a certificate of completion. The Napocor is the contracting party in the build-rehabilitate-operate-transfer (BROT) contract with Impsa. So what has Gonzaga of Transco got to do with it?

Granting that the Napocor has transferred its duties and obligations in the Impsa contract to Transco, there is no way the transfer—if it has been effected—could have been finished on March 22, 2002, the day Gonzaga issued the certificate of completion.

While at that time (March 22, 2002) Transco already had a structure with Gonzaga as president, it was granted a franchise by the House of Representatives only last month, before Congress adjourned.

Even assuming that Transco already had a legal personality—which it did not have—at that time, Gonzaga did not have authority to issue the certificate of completion. The Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) says only the Transco board "may enter into a contract or execute any instrument necessary or convenient for the purpose for which it was created." The certificate of completion issued by Gonzaga was not specifically directed, authorized, or ratified by the Transco board.

In short, the certificate of completion was not valid and the payment of P1.34 billion was illegal.

(To be continued)

Yes, but who made us corrupt?

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

FRANK Ricciardone, the American ambassador, is right: This country is corrupt as hell. But the question is, who made us so?

You ask that question, and automatically you hear violent objections about our proneness to blame others except ourselves for our woes. Of course, we ourselves made this country the mess it is. But to imagine the people who turned it into their favorite R and R, complete with dancing girls, for 400 years—albeit under the lofty banner of Christianizing the heathens and civilizing the barbarians—had no hand in it is stupid. Indeed, to imagine that we lapsed into crookedness despite America's feverish efforts to wean us from our innate proneness to them—*ladrones*, the Spaniards called us—is idiotic.

Of course, we have the Spaniards more than the Americans to thank for direct lessons in corruption. Civil service in their time, or what there was of it, was an open invitation to malfeasance. Before the governor-general ended his term, he was audited by a panel of auditors, and he passed it not by being honest but by pillaging enough to have something left to take home after he bribed the auditors liberally.

Today, we do not have auditors to look at the conduct of presidents. We have the deterrent of shared guilt. Cory Aquino may not look too closely at what Ferdinand Marcos did lest she be examined herself. Fidel Ramos may not look too closely at what Cory did lest he be examined himself. Well, Erap has to look very closely at what his predecessors did since he is being examined in the courts. The same will be true of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and her successor after 2004.

But the Americans had their own lessons to impart here. I've always said that the notion that the Americans taught us democracy was vapid in one fundamental respect. Which is that you cannot teach freedom to someone you have just turned into a slave. You can teach him the definition of freedom but you cannot teach him the spirit of freedom. You can teach him the catechism of democracy but you cannot teach him the soul of democracy. Any grade school teacher will tell you that a drunk and a lout can never teach the virtues of sobriety and temperance to pupils, however brilliant his lesson plan for Civics. Our lessons in freedom and democracy we did not get from our American rulers, we got them from those who fought them.

The same is true with honesty. How can you learn honesty from people who are past masters in double-talk and double standards? Who was responsible for some of the most corrupt leaders of this country? Who made sure nationalists like Claro M. Recto—the Filipinos who had real *malasakit* for this country—would never get a crack at leading it?

America's choice of leaders for this country has never been based on integrity, it has always been based on loyalty—to America. I say "choice of leaders" because although it has seldom directly intervened in elections (there has been little need to, it has always been a choice between Tweedledum and Tweedledee in the loyalty department; Ramon Magsaysay was the exception, a hugely popular American boy) it has always made sure this country's leaders were pro-American. If that worked well for the Philippines, fine; if not, just as fine, so long as it worked well for America. Look at our history and see if we had any president who really did things, particularly in foreign policy, which has always been foreign to us, independently of Washington.

More to the point, who helped Marcos foist his tyranny, a tyranny that jacked up the ante on corruption, possibly forever? (Indeed, who helped the murderous Augusto Pinochet butcher Salvadaor Allende because the latter was pro-Chile rather than pro-America?) Who drank to Marcos' health, even as his health was truly failing, for his steadfast commitment to democracy? Who insisted that Marcos was part of the solution rather than the problem and saved him from the people he tormented for 14 years? Cut, and cut cleanly? That's all very nice, except that they should have told him that in 1973, when his second, non-renewable, term as president expired.

And now, all this (double) talk of fighting terrorism while turning this country into an R and R for US soldiers, with or without the dancing girls. Those are lessons in honesty and forthrightness?

There is one last telling point. Which is that corruption in this country is no more and no less than the one that happens in other Asian countries. I remember at one point reading a funny piece in the Far Eastern Economic Review about a group of Thai cops who threatened to sue their immediate boss because he kept their *tong* money to himself rather than distribute it to the team. That's how far they've factored corruption into their everyday life. What differentiates their corruption from ours is not quantity, it is quality. Or it is the quality that determines the quantity.

That difference is simply that their plunderers stash their loot at home, ours stash it in Swiss and American banks. Their loot ends up in investments—not always in the laundry business—that give employment to their communities, ours ends up in villas or apartments abroad that raise the eyebrows of neighbors. That's what jacks up the ante on corruption and makes it terribly debilitating, the recklessness with which public officials and even so-called captains of industry ransack this country's wealth, having no stake in its future anyway. Their kids are studying in America, and they themselves will move there when things here come to a head, or go to the dogs, whichever comes first, but which will probably come pretty soon.

With the help of officials in the US Embassy who can always be persuaded, with demonstrations of loyalty or something more tangible, to issue visas even to their maids

Race for ombudsman's post heats up

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE RACE to succeed Aniano Desierto as ombudsman, after he retires on Aug. 4, is heating up. Some members of civil society are plugging for feisty PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac, while there are those plugging for Solicitor-General Simeon Marcelo, who has made a name for himself with his uncompromising stand on the coco levy issue. Still others are batting for the nomination of two justices of the Supreme Court: Artemio Panganiban and Antonio Carpio. On the other hand, there are those, such as Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, who are batting for Chief Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno, a veteran in his field.

* * *

The problem for Justices Panganiban and Carpio, however, is the perception that they already sit at the pinnacle of the profession. So would they "step down" and become ombudsman? Of course, in terms of rank, the ombudsman is said to be equal to a Supreme Court justice, plus the fact that this constitutional post is said to be one of the most powerful in the land. But the citizens do not see it that way. In addition, Carpio would have the baggage of being perceived as very close to the First Couple because his law firm has represented them for quite a while. Thus, making him "step down" to become ombudsman would be perceived as insurance for the Arroyos, especially in this day and age when ex-presidents are targets for prosecution.

* * *

On the other hand, the appointment of Desierto to fill the Supreme Court seat vacated recently by Justice Jose A. R. Melo is being pushed by two Cabinet members, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas and Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, and prominent lawyer and Makati Business Club Ricardo Romulo, among others. Sto. Tomas cited Desierto's "capability to evaluate, assess and resolve issues fairly and impartially, coupled with his unflinching courage to (do) what is right and true"—traits that will be "useful in the solemn task of resolving legal and complicated issues confronting the Supreme Court." Romulo mentioned Desierto's long experience in criminal law, having been government prosecutor under five administrations, including the current one, during which he filed the ultimate case of plunder against former President Estrada. Romulo noted that Estrada himself congratulated Desierto on his office's 11th anniversary for having filed a record high of almost 12,000 cases in the Sandiganbayan and regular courts. Actually if Desierto gets to be appointed to the SC, he could very well use the remaining three years before his retirement from there to beef up the Court's expertise in criminal law. An analyis of the composition of the Court shows that majority are former corporate lawyers or professors of law, but there is no one there with long experience in actual prosecution or interpreting criminal law.

* * *

Recently a major daily (not the INQUIRER) bannered the report that two companies involved in multi-billion investments mainly by soldiers and policemen, ICS Exports and Glasgow Credit & Collection Services Inc., had run into trouble after their clients complained of being defrauded of the earnings on their investments. The report said that the Securities and Exchange Commission acted on the numerous complaints by issuing cease-and-desist orders to the companies. The complainants have also asked the Bureau of Immigration to hold the departure of company officials. But I noted in this column that this was like closing the barn after the horses had fled.

Retired Col. Mariano Santiago, who serves as counsel of Glasgow Credit & Collection Services Inc., wrote to deny that the company is involved in a pyramid scam or that it has received any hold-departure order from the BID. Santiago stressed that contrary to reports, Glasgow's offices have not been padlocked, it continues to operate and its officials are in the country. He said it has faithfully complied with government regulations and has been able to meet all its financial obligations with clients and creditors and has sufficient financial resources in at least four banks.

* * *

Shakespeare lovers might want to catch the last staging of "Hamlet" this Saturday afternoon at 6:30 p.m. at the Ateneo High School's Dulaang Sibol Theater in Loyola Heights, Q.C., under the direction of Onofre "Pagsi" Pagsanghan, who celebrates 50 years of selfless devotion to teaching the humanities. The series of three performances this July is actually its second run. I caught a performance during the first series just before the close of last school year. Playing Hamlet is Boyet Dee, who graduated salutatorian from high school last year. As "Pagsi" explained it to me, the Dulaang Sibol play keeps the Hamlet tradition alive in the Ateneo (it is the sixth staging of this play on the campus). "Hamlet" was first staged in 1930 in the old Ateneo at Intramuros, though only the graveyard scene was shown. The first full-length "Hamlet" was staged in 1937 at the Ateneo's Padre Faura auditorium, with Aristedes Gonzales playing the lead role. Then in 1950, it was staged in the ruins of the Faura school, directed by the legendary Fr. Henry Lee Irwin, S.J., with a lanky college student named Teofisto Guingona Jr. playing Hamlet; Vic Silayan the ghost of Banquo, and Moro Lorenzo the usurper king. In 1961, it was staged again at the Ateneo High School with Rufo Gonzales playing Hamlet, while his father, Aristedes, who played the lead role in 1937, played his stage father, the ghost Banquo. In 1994, Tanghalang Ateneo staged the Filipino version of "Hamlet" as translated by Rolando Tinio, with Ronan Capinding playing the lead role.

American Taliban turns gov't witness

NEWS ANALYSIS

Anne Gearan

WASHINGTON—John Walker Lindh's guilty pleas enable the government to avoid revealing any sensitive information at the trial, gain a potentially valuable witness against other accused terrorists and potentially eliminate a public relations headache.

"It seems to be a very fair result for both sides," said Neal Sonnett, a Miami criminal defense lawyer. "The government evidence was strong, but there were some weaknesses. Prosecuting the case might have subjected the government to revealing evidence they didn't want to reveal at this point."

Lindh promised to cooperate fully as a condition of his 20-year prison term, and he has an incentive to follow through. If he fulfills all that prosecutors ask of him, they may ask the judge to reduce the sentence.

Cooperation could mean Lindh takes the stand in some future terrorism trial, although several lawyers called that unlikely. It also could mean Lindh provides useful behind-the-scenes details about how the Taliban operates.

"Here's a guy who, for lack of a better term, had actually infiltrated the enemy's inner circle," said Gordon Widenhouse, a criminal defense lawyer and a former federal public defender. "To get a full debriefing, and presumably a truthful one, would be something the government was willing to give this deal to get."

Lindh now will undergo intensive interviews by government investigators, lawyers said. He will be asked about his fellow soldiers and commanders, and may be able to provide names the government doesn't yet know, lawyers said.

After that, Lindh will be on call to answer questions or testify if prosecutors want him to.

Lindh was to go on trial in August and faced a potential life sentence.

> The plea deal saves the government the potential embarrassment of a courtroom account of Lindh's treatment in captivity

Zacarias Moussaoui, the only person charged with a role in the Sept. 11 attacks, is scheduled for trial this fall. The Frenchman of Moroccan descent faces a potential death sentence.

Lindh may not be much help to prosecutors in the case against Moussaoui, who is accused of conspiring with hijackers who were far removed from the front-line Taliban soldiers fighting to hold onto power in Afghanistan last fall.

"He can talk about what he's seen and people he's been with and what he knows about the operation from his vantage point," said New York criminal defense lawyer Gerald Lefcourt. "I'm not sure that will be worth a great deal, but it will be worth something to the government."

Since the accused Taliban and al-Qaida prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, apparently are not talking, Lindh may be the lone eyewitness to the workings of the Taliban ranks willing to talk. He may be able to help with eventual prosecution of some of those prisoners.

The Guantanamo prisoners probably helped persuade the government to offer Lindh a deal, lawyers said. Lindh's defense lawyers wanted to interview prisoners who served beside him in Afghanistan, something prosecutors were loath to see happen.

The Bush administration consider the prisoners enemy combatants who may be held without access to a lawyer or US courts.

In the near term, the plea deal saves the government the potential embarrassment of a courtroom account of Lindh's treatment in captivity, lawyers said. The plea came at the start of a scheduled hearing about his treatment and the confessions he allegedly made shortly after his capture.

Lindh's lawyers say he was blindfolded and shackled so tightly his circulation was cut off. They also contend he was duct-taped to a stretcher, stripped naked and held in an unheated metal box in freezing weather.

"It would have been horrifying to a lot of people...if facts developed that this young man was interrogated in a situation reminiscent of movies about World War II and what the Germans and Japanese were doing," Lefcourt said.

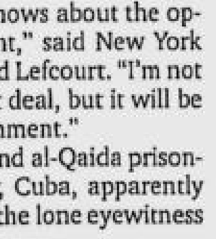
Ultimately, the government avoids looking like a bully for pursuing a trial against a figure some see as pathetic, other lawyers said.

"There were a lot of people who believed that President George W. Bush's first reaction was largely correct, which was that he was a mixed-up kid," said George Washington University law professor Stephen Saltzburg. "That doesn't mean you excuse him entirely, but it doesn't mean they have to go all out." *AP*

Spitters and nose pickers

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo



FILIPINOS made it to the shame list again. This time, it is not because of overpopulation, corruption, pollution or poverty. It has something to do with unhygienic habits in public.

A survey released by Asia Market Intelligence (AMI) a few days ago said that more than 50 percent of Filipinos have confessed to indulging in unhygienic habits in public, with over half admitting to being spitters. This yukky piece of news was carried by Agence France Presse and datelined Hong Kong.

The bad habits covered in the survey also included trimming nails in public and coughing without covering the mouth. The Filipinos lost to the Taiwanese and the Hong Kong Chinese in the nose picking (in public) category. Filipinos don't pick much, many blow their noses into the universe. More on this later.

I looked up AMI on the Internet to find out more about it. It is a market research group with centers in several Asian countries, including the Philippines. Its office here is at the Philippine Stock Exchange Center in the uppity Ortigas complex. Obviously, it also does research on health-related concerns.

When I called up AMI, a machine answered promising a prompt return call. I wanted to find out how the survey questions were phrased and how AMI researchers went about asking the questions. Did they get spat at?

Okay, if you missed that piece of news, here are some of the things AMI found out. Fifty one percent of Filipinos (surveyed) admitted to indulging in at least one unhygienic habit, compared to 42 percent in Indonesia, 41 percent in both Malaysia and Taiwan and 38 percent in Hong Kong. The AFP story said that "surprisingly, the poll found that mainland Chinese were the least likely to engage in the habits with only 21 percent admitting guilt." The words "surprisingly" and "admitting guilt" suggest that the French news agency thought either that the mainland Chinese were not honest enough or that they were not what they had been thought to be.

I think this survey is not only about unhygienic habits in public, it is also about owning up. Filipinos should be ranked first in honesty in this survey.

In the spitting category the Pinoys were tops. Because they owned up. Obviously the survey results were based on what the subjects confessed. The results may not be the objective truth.

The survey showed that 26.7 percent of Filipinos confessed to spitting in public compared to 23 percent in Indonesia and 19.7 percent in Malaysia, while 20.5 percent of Taiwanese admitted to picking their noses in public, well ahead of second-placed Hong Kong with 15.2 percent.

I don't know why AMI conducted the survey. Was it for a health product from the drug industry? What was mentioned was that 5,939 people aged 15 to 64 from Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines were surveyed. AMI group director Time Balbirnie said most of the habits were undertaken subconsciously and the offenders were spread evenly across age groups.

They come as frothy white or yellowish pearly blobs that glimmer in the sunlight. If you step on them, you could slip and fall. They come from a volcanic regurgitation and expectoration from the chest. Another variety comes with a force from the nasal orifice. I have always marveled at how the practitioners of this feat are able to prevent their brains from spilling out. Using a finger to close one nostril, the Pinoy forces out a strong gust from the open other nostril to expel the slimy flying object and carry it on a straight trajectory. Splat. He dries his nose with the back of his hand and walks straight ahead to his future.

Trimming nails in public unhygienic? Yes, those nail clippings could carry fungal spores and harmful bacteria that breed under the nails of their owners. Those hardworking ambulant *manikuristas*, bless them, who work on the toes of sidewalk vendors and market stall owners could be spreaders of harmful microorganisms.

Coughing without covering one's mouth is something else. I've had my nape coughed at a number of times in crowded places. One uncovered sneeze from a tubercular person could release countless harmful bacilli into the air. You get a big helping if you are inside an elevator or closed air-conditioned vehicle. Airplanes on long flights are the worst.

So why didn't AMI include urinating in public? Is it because the other countries surveyed don't have this problem? Drive around Metro Manila for a day and you will likely see not one but several Filipino men facing a wall, post, tree or tire and relieving themselves. You'd even see them almost kissing the sign that says they should not take a leak there.

You've seen so many versions of "Bawal Umihi Dito" and spellings: *umihe, omehe, omehi, umehi, umihe, umehe, deto*. You would not believe it but I I've seen it spelled *homehe* somewhere in Sampaloc. Too bad I didn't have a camera with me to prove it. These warnings are usually followed by the fine to be paid (if the offenders are caught with their pants down), or "by order" of so and so or the ordinance number.

Well, *dito* means here and the urinator could simply move elsewhere. You never see a sign which says "Bawal Umihi." That is unhealthy. Some smart alecks suggest the sign should direct those with full bladders where to go. Okay, where to go?

Filipino are said to be fastidious and finicky where their bodies are concerned, taking a bath more than once a day if circumstances allow. Alas, the area a few feet away from their bodies they consider outer space

Cancer of poverty

YOUNG BLOOD

Maybelle Therese Y. Bangayan

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

"MY cancer is **nothing** compared to the cancer of poverty in our world today."

These are words that I have spoken to thousands of men and women of all ages in different events organized by the Couples for Christ to which I have been invited to speak.

I was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 24 last year. Mine is a very rare case since statistics show that only 0.3 percent of breast cancer patients are below the age of 30 at the time of diagnosis. So unlike most women who have the same illness, I was still single when I discovered mine. No husband, no child of my own, and still an entire career to be built ahead of me.

I couldn't believe it. The terrible scenes I would watch in movies about cancer patients were actually happening to me! Before I knew it, I was already going in and out of the hospital for a series of dreadful things: mastectomy, blood tests, CT scans, mammograms done on the one and only breast left, a biopsy on that breast, chemotherapy, and more chemotherapy.

Aside from all that, there were the emotional struggles. Before I would take a bath, I would see my entire self in the mirror and I'd see a woman with a breast on just one side of her chest and only bony ribs underneath the scarred skin on the other side. I would look up and see my bald head and my face with barely any eyebrows left. During my most terrible days after every chemo treatment, I would feel even uglier because the side-effects really wore me down.

It seems like I can't run out of things to say about how terrible the whole experience can be. Even with just the brief description of my struggles with cancer, you have already begun to feel how tragic and traumatic it all can be.

Recently I was at Welfareville in Mandaluyong, serving the poor women there by facilitating a Christian Life Program for them. The women we were serving told us their stories. Two women said they had a family member who was sick and needed to be treated. Because they couldn't really afford to stay long in the hospital, they went to see an *albularyo* (faith healer). As another woman shared her story, she began to cry...

Aling Cecen said her husband has been working for a big bakery and hasn't been paid his wages the last two months because the company's capital was tied up in some new equipment purchased earlier this year. With no income coming from her husband, this woman, a mother of four, was at a point where she no longer knew how she would feed her children. Just the day before we met her, she was forced to split their only food left into two smaller servings: one for breakfast and one for dinner.

Listening to all their stories made me remember a story that my dad, a physician, shared with me. A very helpful person brought to him a child from a poor family who was dying. He had seen the rest of the family literally standing around the table where the child lay, watching him and waiting for him to breathe his last. This family didn't know what was ailing the child because they didn't have the money to pay anyone to find out. All they could do was pray.

I suddenly felt so small. I might have been diagnosed with cancer. I might have gone through what seems like the worst with chemotherapy. And my cancer may recur anytime; and since I am still young, I have many more years ahead of me to witness its possible recurrence. But I have the privilege of knowing my disease and of having the option to pick which doctor to see. I even have the means (and the luxury) of staying in the hospital when I need or want to. Best of all, I have the privilege of getting treated. Many of the poor don't even get to know whether or not what is causing their pain is a form of cancer.

And because of all this, the same line I've been saying in all my speeches has come back to me with a much deeper meaning this time. It has proven to me that my personal cancer is definitely nothing compared to the cancer of poverty that afflicts our world today.

Maybelle Therese Y. Bangayan

The ride home

Pia R. Roxas

THROUGH the darkness inside the shuttle, I can see two other passengers my age. I didn't have to pick them out really. We three are the only ones straining to look at the road outside. Everyone else is asleep.

It is 8:50 p.m. I am on the way home and thinking bitterly, "Capitalism kills humanity."

Tonight, I have made the mistake of taking the Ayala-Marikina shuttle. I live in Antipolo, and though it makes for a shorter trip, I avoid taking it because for an hour, you have no choice but to fix your eyes on the dark space between you and other passengers. Heavily tinted windows. No view. Can't breathe.

I'm much happier taking a bus or a jeepney. My favorite buses from the Marikina Auto Line Transport Corp. are aging, orange-painted vehicles that creak as they trundle down Edsa. I feel a touch of nostalgia, hurtling bravely along despite their dubious condition. They still have wooden benches, and no aircon.

Of course, my asthmatic best friend doesn't share my enthusiasm. She and another friend share a 17th-floor Citiland condo unit. Yet another gray, air-deprived place. Waking up, you see no sign of either sunlight, moonlight or life outside. Your only assurance that the world continues to turn comes from the cell-phone clock.

On a bus, with your hair being tossed about by the wind and your face crashing against the night air, you feel you are moving head-on, full-tilt toward, well, the world. You see the people on the streets, the colors, the sounds, the motion. There's so much happening out there. The city brims with energy.

When you are inside the dark, self-contained, air-conditioned world of a car, there's more than a window that separates you from the world outside. When you take the elevator up to your 32nd-floor office, there's more than 31 floors between you and the ground. And for most of the older people who've lived and breathed Makati for five years plus, there's more than five years between today and the last time they woke up without immediately asking yourself, "What do I have to do today?" (When you're oh-so-cautiously "just dating," there's more than a euphemism between the you now and the you that can just breathlessly rush into the arms of a crush.)

Lately I keep remembering a day in high school when Ms Francisco (now Mrs. Sol) had us remove our black, leather shoes in the middle of the field. Walk on your bare feet, she said.

I don't know about my classmates, but it was an epiphany for me. The soles of my feet came alive to the feel of earth and grass. Though short, I think that moment was more real than any stolen weekend in Boracay, a trek to Sagada, a stroll through Power Plant, and most definitely, any after-office-hours drink at Starbucks or Flute. When you console yourself with expensive lunches in the faux park ambience of the Enterprise/RCBC/LKG/PhilAm Life Tower food court, you have to ask: Where is the authenticity?

When our company went to Subic, my officemates were excited by the sight of a handful of stars. When I walk home up a small hill in Antipolo, I look up and see a clear sky strewn with much, much more than a handful. Every night.

Pia R. Roxas, 22, wants any reader who has similar sentiments or some violent reactions to this essay to write her at ra-[illegible] postmark net

Tournament puts judges in compromising situation

LETTERS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

WHAT'S happening to the judiciary? It has not yet recovered from a crisis of confidence and already the court administrator, Presbiterio J. Velasco Jr., is spearheading a golf tournament at Wack Wack on Sept. 27, 2002 supposedly to help the Philippine Judges Foundation Inc. (PJFI) realize its aim to "develop and maintain the independence and protect the integrity of the Judiciary."

There's nothing wrong with members of the judiciary playing a round of golf now and then among themselves. But when a judges' association such as PJFI sponsors a golf tournament, it's scandalous!

While the objective to look after the welfare of the members of the judiciary by providing them with "health care benefits," etc. may be noble and appears harmless, such an activity may be violative of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act. When Velasco solicits the sponsorship of big firms such as SGV, ACCRA, Siguion-Reyna and Romulo Mabanta, he is skating on very thin ice.

Any of these firms will, of course, voluntarily foot the bill if given the chance. But this will not exempt Velasco and the sponsors from liability under the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices law.

Besides, lawyers from the big law firms and executives of the top corporations will be rubbing elbows with members of the judiciary as they play golf. A more compromising scenario that would imperil PJFI's main purpose is hard to imagine.

I believe the members of the judiciary should not be placed in a position where they are expected to raise funds, especially by soliciting donations from corporations, lawyers and litigants. The Supreme Court can look elsewhere for funds, i. e., by increasing the filing fees, penalties, etc. or asking Congress to augment its budget. Or is this golf tournament a classic case where the "*bigas ay lumalapit sa manok*"?

Is *delicadeza*, like the dodo, a vanishing species?

—F. CARMELO J. AQUINO, 10 de Julio St., Lipa City

Ready to follow Davao's example

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to appoint Mayor Rodrigo Duterte as adviser to the task force that will handle the problems of kidnapping and drug syndicates in the country is a welcome move. The good mayor has a proven track record in dealing with criminal syndicates in this part of the country.

However, the comment of Teresita Ang-See of the Citizen's Action Against Crime (CAAC) and other pseudo human rights groups that Duterte's style will not work in Metro Manila shows how insensitive the supposed guardians against criminality are. The task force created by President Macapagal is national in scope, which means that it is not only in Metro Manila that Duterte will be involved. Kidnapping and drug syndicates are national problems.

It's like saying that what we can do here in Davao cannot be duplicated in Metro Manila. *Kung kaya namin, kaya ninyo rin!*

But I guess it will not happen in Metro Manila because it has become the most dangerous place in the country.

No wonder Davao City has become the most livable and competitive city in the country today. Migration to this city from Luzon and Visayas and other parts of Mindanao continues up to this day because of increasing criminal activities in the National Capital Region. Expats have chosen this city to be their base of operations because of the peace and order.

When former Mayor Bayani Fernando was appointed as MMDA chair, the question was asked if he could duplicate what he did in Marikina in Metro Manila. The same was also asked of former SBMA chair, now Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon. Now, the same question is being asked by doomsayers. Yes, they can but not in Metro Manila where Ang-See and her cohorts live. But may I remind you that Metro Manila is not the Philippines. Other cities and towns are willing to follow what Davao City did.

—LUISITO M. CASTILLO, Central Park, Bangkal, Davao City

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Ombrophobia

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

CAN you imagine a Filipino film wherein our stars do a Fred Astaire routine, singing and dancing in the rain?

The singing and dancing would start out right, until you hear a mother's voice in the background scolding the stars for being out in the rain and warning them that they'd catch cold.

Ombrophobia, an irrational fear of rain, is a national affliction. One moment people are strolling quietly on the street, and the next, they are scampering in all directions. Someone new to the Philippines would be startled, expecting to see King Kong suddenly emerging from around the corner.

A friend of mine, Portia Marcelo, observes that in other countries when it starts raining, students find ways to cover and protect their books. In the Philippines, we take out our books and use them to cover our heads.

Ay, but such scenes depict our ombrophobia, as well as our regard, or the lack thereof, for books.

We fear the rain because we think it causes coughs and cold and flu. And we presume everyone else in the world knows of rain's disease-causing potential. Only when we go overseas do we realize there are many people who don't fear the rain, seeing it mainly as an inconvenience that gets your clothes wet.

Rain even takes on romantic connotations in many Western countries. Movies are full of scenes of walking in the rain with a lover, the tinier the umbrella the better because then you get to cuddle up. In other scenes, the man and woman are so in love they throw away the umbrella and, yeah, start dancing in the rain.

But, you will protest (and I can hear Filipino doctors joining in the chorus because I've met quite a few ombrophobic M.D.'s), how come I came down with the flu last week after being rained on—*naulanan*.

There's a simple explanation here: When it rains, everyone jumps into a bus or FX or jeep, or rushes into buildings. Some people even end up in a theater to pass time until the rain subsides. When you do that, you increase your chances of getting exposed to someone who does have a virus for cold or the flu. The more people there are, and the more enclosed the space, the greater the chance that you will pick up the bugs.

But you don't remember those crowds when you do come down with a cold. Instead, you remember the rain, which you then blame.

People have always attributed illnesses to the weather. In English we say a person "catches a cold," suggesting that the cold came, well, from the cold weather. To this day, mothers in temperate countries bundle up their kids before sending them outdoors, hoping this will protect them. Doctors say it's fine that you protect the children from the cold, but this does not necessarily protect them from colds. In fact the kids will probably catch a cold in a warm classroom, courtesy of classmates with the bug.

Other Filipinos will argue that it's the rain interacting with the heat. They blame the changes in weather, a sultry heat lingering on even as the rains continue to fall. Filipinos fear that too—the rains pounding on the warm earth are believed to release dangerous *singaw* or vapors that can cause respiratory as well as gastrointestinal diseases.

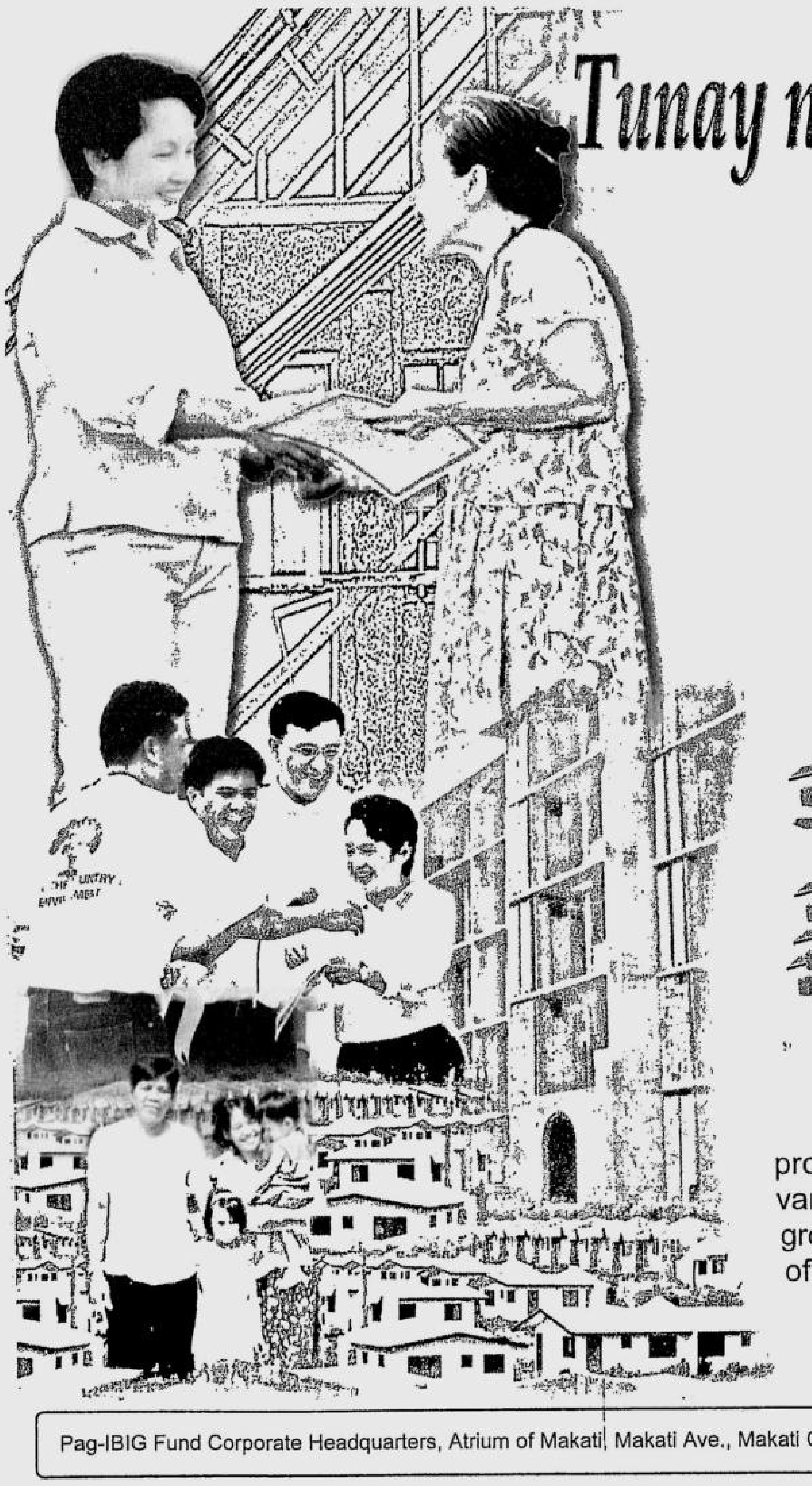
Couldn't these abrupt changes in the weather induce stress? Not really. We think our changes in weather are drastic but the fluctuations here—about 5 degrees centigrade within a day—are really nothing compared with those in temperate countries. Last April when I was in Shanghai I'd wake up to almost freezing weather and bundle up, but by noon, I would have stripped down to a T-shirt, with temperatures reaching 25 degrees. It wasn't just the temperature fluctuations; we were also getting fog and rain, but people thought nothing of the change in weather, or the rain.

I suspect our fear of rain is more specific to urban Filipinos. As a college undergraduate, I used to spend my summers doing rural service in the Cordillera. By May, we would have strong monsoon rains every afternoon, sometimes going well into the night. A downpour didn't stop us from working; we'd keep hiking since the houses were quite dispersed. Sometimes we'd move from one village to the next, resting only after sunset. It always felt good drying out, but we didn't come down with colds; in fact I think those wet hikes made us stronger.

Summer rains are welcomed in rural areas, a sign that there will be a bountiful agricultural season ahead. It's different in the cities. Congested living conditions make us more vulnerable to floods, landslides and outbreaks of disease. Unfortunately, we associate the disasters with the rain itself, rather than the living conditions.

I love the rain, except when it keeps going for days on end and the rainfall begins to sound more like *ulan ulol ulan ulol*. In temperate countries, the long winter nights bring on depression, which is labeled as a seasonal affective disorder. Maybe we have our own version, induced by rains, a kind of cabin fever that comes from being cooped up so long.

The cure? A bit of singing and dancing in the rain wouldn't be a bad idea, caps and raincoats optional.



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Palestinian gunmen ambush bus, kill 7 Jewish settlers

JERUSALEM—A Palestinian involved in a deadly ambush on a bus carrying Jewish settlers in the West Bank was killed early on Wednesday in a gun battle with pursuing Israeli troops, military sources said.

An Israeli was also killed in the area of the exchange in the Kana valley near the ultra-Orthodox Jewish settlement of Emmanuel, the sources added.

The initial attack, claimed by three Palestinian groups and launched on Tuesday before top officials from the United States and its European and Arab partners met in New York to discuss the Middle East, killed seven settlers near the settlement.

But despite the ambush, the United States failed to win over its partners to a new strategy of ostracizing Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and making security for Israelis the main precondition for progress on peace.

The European Union, Russia, the United Nations, Egypt and Jordan disagreed publicly with US Secretary of State Colin Powell on relations with Arafat and on whether Palestinians alone can end Middle East violence.

"We all have our respective positions. The UN still recognizes Chairman Arafat and we will continue to deal with him until the Palestinians decide otherwise," UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan told a New York news conference afterwards.

The United States presented the outlines of a plan to reorganize the Palestinian security forces but knocked down a suggestion by European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana that the US Central Intelligence Agency would send a mission to the Middle East within two weeks.

The "quartet" of the United States, the United Nations, Russia and the EU did agree that a task force would meet in late August or early September to talk about economic assistance to the Palestinians. They also agreed that their leaders would meet again during a UN General Assembly session in September.

Tuesday's West Bank attack was a slap in the face to the Israeli army, which has been reoccupying seven of the eight Palestinian cities in the West Bank for nearly a month with the declared aim of stopping suicide bombers from reaching Israel.

But Israeli political sources said it was unlikely Israeli retaliation would include any move to exile Arafat, whose Palestinian Authority condemned the attack.

Witnesses said three gunmen posing as Israeli soldiers set off a roadside bomb, bringing the armored bus to a halt near the entrance to the Emmanuel settlement.

Police said seven people were killed—including three members of one family—and at least 20 wounded in the attack, at the same spot where Palestinian gunmen killed 10 people in a bus ambush last December.

Three Palestinian militant groups, the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, which is a spin-off from Arafat's Fatah faction, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and Hamas issued claims of responsibility. *Reuters*

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Paraguay anti-president protests grow

PARAGUAY—Police fired rubber bullets and tear gas at hundreds of protesters blocking major highways in Paraguay on Tuesday as calls grew for the unpopular president to resign one day after deadly riots.

At least four people were injured when police dispersed protesters angry over a grueling recession in this landlocked nation of five million people. But the violence paled in comparison to Monday's clashes, when two protesters were killed and 239 arrested.

Thousands of rifle-toting police patrolled the streets of the capital Asuncion, where many stayed home from work after the worst riots in three years led the government to declare a state of emergency due to last until Friday.

Police warned they would use force if necessary to clear roadblocks across the landlocked country, set up by protesters demanding the resignation of President Luis Gonzalez Macchi, besieged by chronic poverty and soaring unemployment.

"The situation today is calmer, more controlled, but we will continue acting to meet the terms of the decree that establishes the state of emergency," a police spokesman said.

The square in -front of Asuncion's pink Congress building, where police fired water cannons at hundreds of angry protesters on Monday, was deserted. Soldiers in camouflage uniforms slumped on park benches in the late afternoon sun, drinking sodas and chatting with tourists.

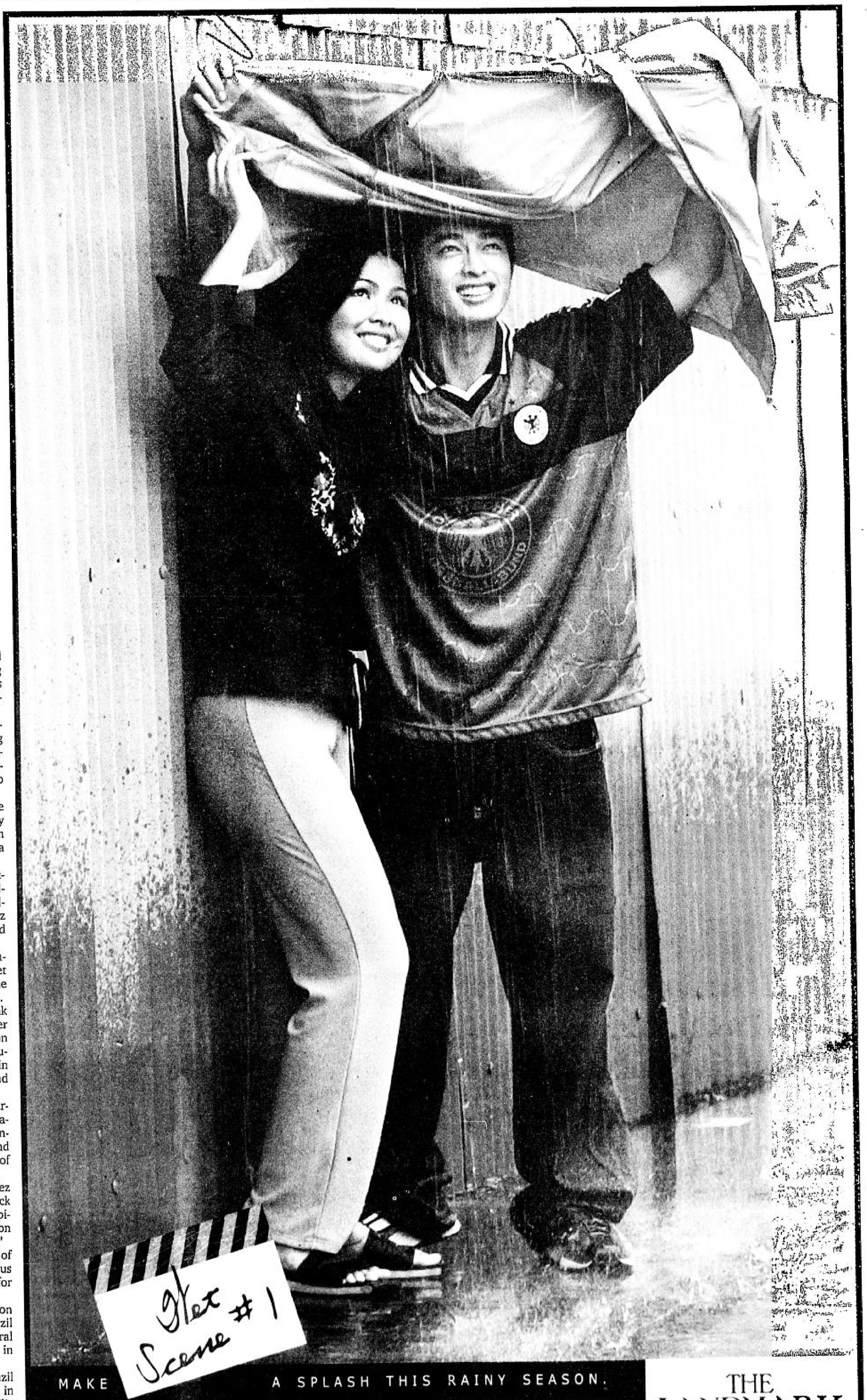
But many people said they expected further unrest, with Paraguay's mostly contraband-based economy suffering from economic crises in neighboring giants Argentina and Brazil as instability spreads across much of Latin America.

"The situation just gets worse and Gonzalez Macchi is a corrupt thief," said Alberto, a truck driver waiting for a bus downtown as he suspiciously eyed a policeman standing guard on the corner. "People want a change at the top."

Vice President Julio Cesar Franco, leader of the opposition party, joined a growing chorus of calls by top politicians and protesters for the resignation of Gonzalez Macchi.

The government blamed the protests on Lino Oviedo, a former general living in Brazil and the alleged mastermind behind several failed coup attempts over the last decade in Paraguay.

Oviedo was due to meet officials in Brazil on Wednesday to explain his involvement in the riots. Paraguay's ambassador in Brasilia said a new extradition request could be filed for Oviedo after a similar plea was rejected last December. *Reuters*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THE LATEST FASHIONS AT THE LANDMARK WILL SURELY MAKE YOU SHINE, EVEN IF THE SUN REFUSES TO DO SO.
THE LANDMARK

IRA apologizes for 'noncombatant' deaths

DUBLIN—The Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrilla group apologized on Tuesday for the first time for bombing and shooting hundreds of civilians in its 30-year campaign against British rule of Northern Ireland.

The British government welcomed the unprecedented statement as a major step towards peace, but Protestant Unionists and some family members of victims said it was too little, too late.

In a statement issued to Dublin-based republican newspaper An Phoblacht, the group said it offered its "sincere apologies and condolences" to the families of civilians it had killed during three decades of conflict.

The IRA has fought for decades to unite Northern Ireland with the mainly Catholic rest of the island, while Protestant Unionists seek to keep the north a part of the United Kingdom. An IRA ceasefire has been in place since 1997.

"We remain totally committed to the peace process and to dealing with the challenges and difficulties which this presents. This includes the acceptance of past mistakes and of the hurt and pain we have caused to others," the statement said.

The statement was welcomed in Britain, Ireland and United States.

Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary John Reid hailed what he called "a statement of unprecedented strength" but challenged the IRA to make clear its war was over.

"I think the best testimony to any regret . . . the people of Northern Ireland can be given is complete confidence the actions that caused that pain and misery will never occur again. That they are finished, they're over, there's no going back," Reid said.

The Irish government said it was a "a significant step forward in the healing process." In addition to apologizing for killing civilians, the IRA acknowledged that the family members of "combatants" killed in attacks had suffered as well, although it did not apologize for killing police and soldiers.

The apology came ahead of this weekend's 30th anniversary of "Bloody Friday," when the IRA detonated more than 20 bombs in central Belfast in one hour, killing seven civilians and two British soldiers, and injuring at least 130 people.

It is also a particularly tense moment in the Northern Irish peace process which has seen the IRA come under criticism.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair is expected to rule in a week on whether the IRA's ceasefire remains intact following reports it trained Marxist rebels in Colombia and allegations it was involved in illegal activity in Belfast.

British Unionist leaders were skeptical. The leader of the mainstream Ulster Unionist Party David Trimble focused on what the statement omitted.

"It's significant that this statement says nothing, nothing at all, about the recent violence the IRA's been involved in, nothing about what their future conduct will be," he told Britain's parliament late on Tuesday. *Reuters*

RESCUE workers lift the remains of victims after an explosion in the heart of Belfast, Northern Ireland on Friday July 21, 1972, on a day which later became known as Bloody Friday, when the IRA set off more than 20 bombs within an hour in Belfast. AP

US Senate panel votes to lift Cuba travel ban

WASHINGTON—A Senate panel voted on Tuesday to lift a ban on Americans traveling to Cuba as the House of Representatives prepared to follow suit, possibly setting up a veto showdown with President George W. Bush.

The Senate Appropriations Committee voted unanimously to lift the four-decade-old travel curbs on the Communist island as it cleared an $18.5 billion spending bill to fund the US Treasury and general government operations next year.

The full House is due to take up its version of the funding bill later in the week and is expected to back lifting the ban for the third year in a row. In the past, those efforts failed because the Senate did not act on the issue.

Proponents of ending the travel ban say it infringes on US citizens' constitutional right to travel freely and has demonstrably failed to weaken the grip of President Fidel Castro on the Caribbean island nation.

"If we are serious about undermining Castro and bringing democracy to that island, why not let Americans travel there with that message?" said Arizona Republican Rep. Jeff Flake, one of the chief House sponsors of the effort. But conservative Republicans, backed by the White House, oppose the move—saying commerce with the US would bolster Castro. *Reuters*

NY releases 6 possible plans for World Trade Center void

NEW YORK—New York on Tuesday released six possible plans for the destroyed World Trade Center site and adjacent areas, all of them incorporating a large, green memorial park and restoring the famous skyline, but no building as high as the soaring 110-story twin towers.

The six concepts, presented at a news conference near the 6-hectare site where the center stood before the Sept. 11 hijacked plane attacks, would also include a transportation hub serving the rest of the city and potentially new rail lines to its northern and eastern suburbs. All of the plans included buildings for cultural uses, such as museums.

Each plan included a vision of a memorial park to the more than 2,800 civilians and rescuers who were killed. Each plan also suggested between four and six buildings ranging from 45 stories to 80 stories high, some with a long, needle-like TV antenna on top.

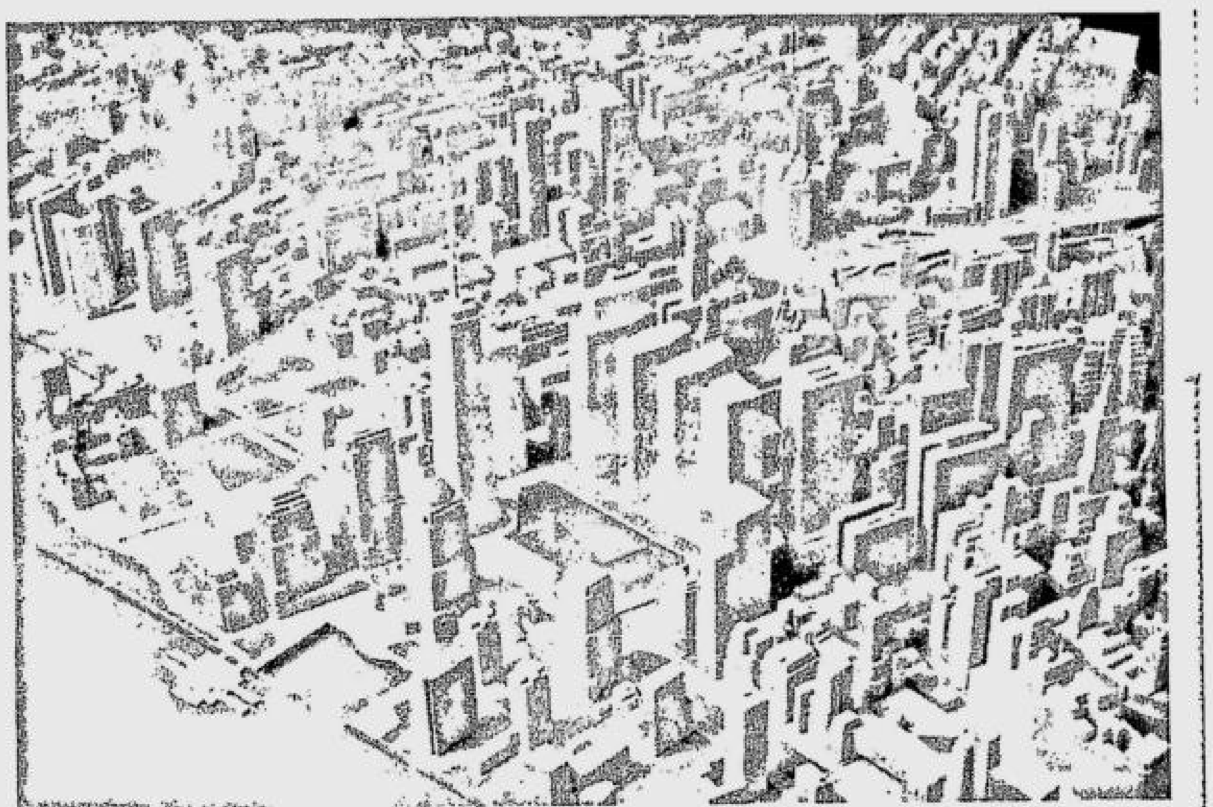
"What we are showing is a conceptual idea that each plan has a position of important architectural statement in the skyline," said Jack Beyer, founding partner of Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners, architectural consultants to New York city and state.

Officials said redevelopment of lower Manhattan was a national priority. They emphasized the process was open to public debate, starting with a "town hall" meeting on Saturday expected to draw thousands of people.

Some planners, civic groups and community groups were disappointed that the principal agencies responsible for the planning, the Lower Manhattan Development Corp. and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, held firm to office space and retail space that was on the site.

All the plans include the requirement of restoring 11 million square feet of office space, 55,740 square meters of retail space and 600,000 square feet of space for a hotel.

But John Whitehead, chairman of the development group established by the city and state to oversee the planning, said "there will not be a solid block of boring buildings." Whitehead, 80, a former US diplomat and Wall Street financier said, he believed it was possible to preserve rights to commercial space and rebuild "a beautiful place of which we are proud" at the site. *Reuters*



MODEL of the "Memorial Plaza" proposal for the World Trade Center in New York. Six conceptual plans for the World Trade Center site were revealed by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, in New York July 16. REUTERS

Spanish gov't recalls envoy to Morocco over isle dispute

MADRID—Spain recalled its ambassador to Morocco for consultations, as a diplomatic spat over a Mediterranean islet continued into a seventh day on Wednesday.

A Spanish foreign ministry statement issued late on Tuesday said the ambassador, Fernando Arias Salgado, had been recalled with immediate effect because Madrid "had not received a satisfactory answer" to a note sent on July 11 after Morocco sent about a dozen soldiers to the disputed rocky islet.

It said it had taken the decision "after several fruitless diplomatic steps." Morocco has said the troop deployment in the islet, which lies some 200 meters inside Moroccan territorial waters near Spain's North African enclave of Ceuta, was part of a campaign to clamp down on illegal immigrants leaving for Europe, an issue that has already caused problems with Madrid.

Spain, backed by the European Union, has demanded Rabat withdraw the soldiers, arguing that their their presence violated Spanish sovereignty over the island.

The announcement that the ambassador was being withdrawn came after hopes had risen for a settlement on Tuesday, after the Spanish foreign ministry said Madrid and Rabat agreed to seek a diplomatic solution to their rival claims, in a bid to end the tense military buildup, which has radically increased the existing tension between Madrid and Rabat.

The Spanish foreign ministry said Moroccan Foreign Minister Mohamed Benaissa and his Spanish counterpart Ana Palacio had had a "frank" telephone conversation and agreed to "find a diplomatic solution" to the crisis over the uninhabited islet, which Spain calls Perejil and Morocco calls Leila.

Despite the conciliatory tone, Spain's secretary of state for defense, Fernando Diez Moreno said on Tuesday said Madrid would maintain a reinforced military presence in Ceuta and Melilla, another Spanish enclave in northern Morocco.

Spanish Defense Minister Federico Trillo said Madrid would send a supply ship on Wednesday to bolster the four naval vessels it already has sitting off the Moroccan coast, maintaining pressure on Rabat to pull back from Perejil. *AFP*

Teen 'vampire' cut out heart of granny, court told

LONDON—A British teenager described as being obsessed with vampires is accused of butchering a 90-year-old woman, cutting out her heart and drinking her blood, newspapers reported on Wednesday.

Prosecutors told a court in Mold, north Wales, the 17-year-old, who cannot be named for legal reasons, stabbed Mabel Leyshon at her home before ripping out her heart and wrapping it in newspaper.

The teenager has denied the charges.

"This was a murder carried out to satisfy the defendant's own sadistic selfish ends," the Independent newspaper quoted prosecution lawyer Roger Thomas as saying.

"What may have started out as a bizarre interest became an obsession and led ultimately to murder," he said.

Mold Crown Court heard that the deaf pensioner was attacked as she sat watching television and ferociously stabbed 22 times.

Her dead body, found last November, was then perched on an armchair where the killer made deep gashes in her legs and drank her blood after draining it into a saucepan, prosecutors said.

Fire pokers were found at her feet in the shape of a cross.

Thomas told the court the accused was fascinated by vampires and devoted himself to studying books and magazines on how to become one. *Reuters*

Poorest nations summit marred by Madagascar power play, fund lack

NADI, Fiji—Leaders from more than 60 of the world's poorest nations met here Wednesday for a summit aimed at protecting privileged trading ties with Europe, but the gathering was marred by logistics snafus and the ongoing power struggle in Madagascar.

Ministerial talks ahead of the formal summit opening were delayed by more than two hours Wednesday when ousted Madagascar president Didier Ratsiraka sent a delegate to represent his troubled Indian Ocean state at the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) gathering, delegates said.

Ratsiraka, who reaffirmed from exile in Paris at the weekend his determination to regain power, has the backing of some key African states.

But other ACP members were unwilling to give him recognition over Madagascar's current president, Marc Ravalomanana, declared the winner of disputed December election and recognised by EU governments and the US.

After two hours of ministerial wrangling, Ratsiraka's delegate was escorted away from the meeting room and the Madagascar seat left open, an official with the ACP secretariat said.

The summit was due to discuss trade and aid ties between the 78-nation ACP and the European Union, but has been marred by administrative snags and a poor turnout, with only 18 heads of state or government scheduled to attend.

Only two African government heads were expected—South Africa's President Thabo Mbeki and Botswana President Festus Mogae.

The ACP was created 27 years ago and its most recent treaty, signed in Benin in 2000, includes 15.2 billion euros (dollars) in aid and a new trade deal which ultimately will end preferential tariffs many of the ACP countries have with the 15-nation European Union.

The major item on the agenda in the Fiji resort of Nadi is a progress report on a new trading agreement the ACP has to reach with the EU by 2008.

The worry for ACP members, particularly the smaller Pacific countries, is that their struggling economies will get lost in globalization.

Fiji's Foreign Minister Kaliopati Tavola said it was clear in a free trade world that most of the ACP countries were being marginalized.

He said while the ACP subscribed to trade liberalization, it still wanted to hang on to its preferential access to European markets and that World Trade Organization rules should reflect that. *AFP*

MEN carry a kava bowl during the traditional ceremonies of welcome, July 17, of the African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) summit in Nadi, Fiji. Leaders and foreign ministers from 78 of the world's poorer countries will be trying to build a unified front for crucial trade talks with the European Union later this year. AP

India-Pakistan tensions rise again after massacre

NEW DELHI—Tension between India and Pakistan rose markedly on Tuesday, with New Delhi calling for its arch-rival to be declared a terrorist state and Islamabad boasting it had exposed India's troop weakness.

The exchanges came in the wake of a massacre of Hindus in a shantytown in southern Kashmir at the weekend allegedly perpetrated by heavily-armed Muslim militants posing as Hindu holy men.

Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes made it clear during debate on the massacre in parliament that New Delhi holds Pakistan responsible for the killings.

"This terrorism will not last even a minute if Pakistan does not want it," Fernandes said during the stormy debate in the lower house of parliament, during which the BJP-led coalition government came under attack from the opposition for failing to protect citizens against militant attacks.

"Pakistan's name has come up again and again, even if they deny it," he said. "They condemned the incident but it is very difficult to believe them." In Saturday's attack, the militants entered the Qasim Nagar slum near Indian Kashmir's winter capital Jammu and began blazing away with automatic weapons and lobbing grenades at the Hindu residents, killing 28.

"In the past few months we have seen an unusual trend in militancy when unarmed people who are not able to fight are being targeted," Fernandes said bitterly.

An angry Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani accused Pakistan of failing to keep its promise to dismantle militant camps and stop the flow of armed rebels into Indian Kashmir.

"Pakistan's battle strategy is to take boys from Kashmir to camps in Pakistan, train them, pay them, send them to stage attacks and compensate their families if they are killed," he said in a fiery speech.

"This is not just an issue of infiltration, this is an issue of the infrastructure of cross-border terrorism and unless that infrastructure is wound up (the international community must say) 'we will declare you a terrorist state,'" Advani told parliament.

Across the border, Pakistan launched 10 days of war games, with President Pervez Musharraf urging troops to maintain "their edge over the adversary" and boasting that Indian troop weaknesses had been exposed.

"The massing and deployment of Indian troops along the border has exposed certain vulnerabilities of the Indian army, which were very useful in formulating various options," Musharraf said.

"By the grace of almighty Allah, Pakistan's armed forces have the capability to not only defend every inch of the motherland, but also strike a telling blow to anyone who dares to challenge the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country," state television quoted him as saying.

The nuclear-capable neighbors have had around a million troops deployed along their shared border for the past seven months, following a deadly December attack on India's parliament which New Delhi blamed on Islamic militants operating out of Pakistan. *AFP*

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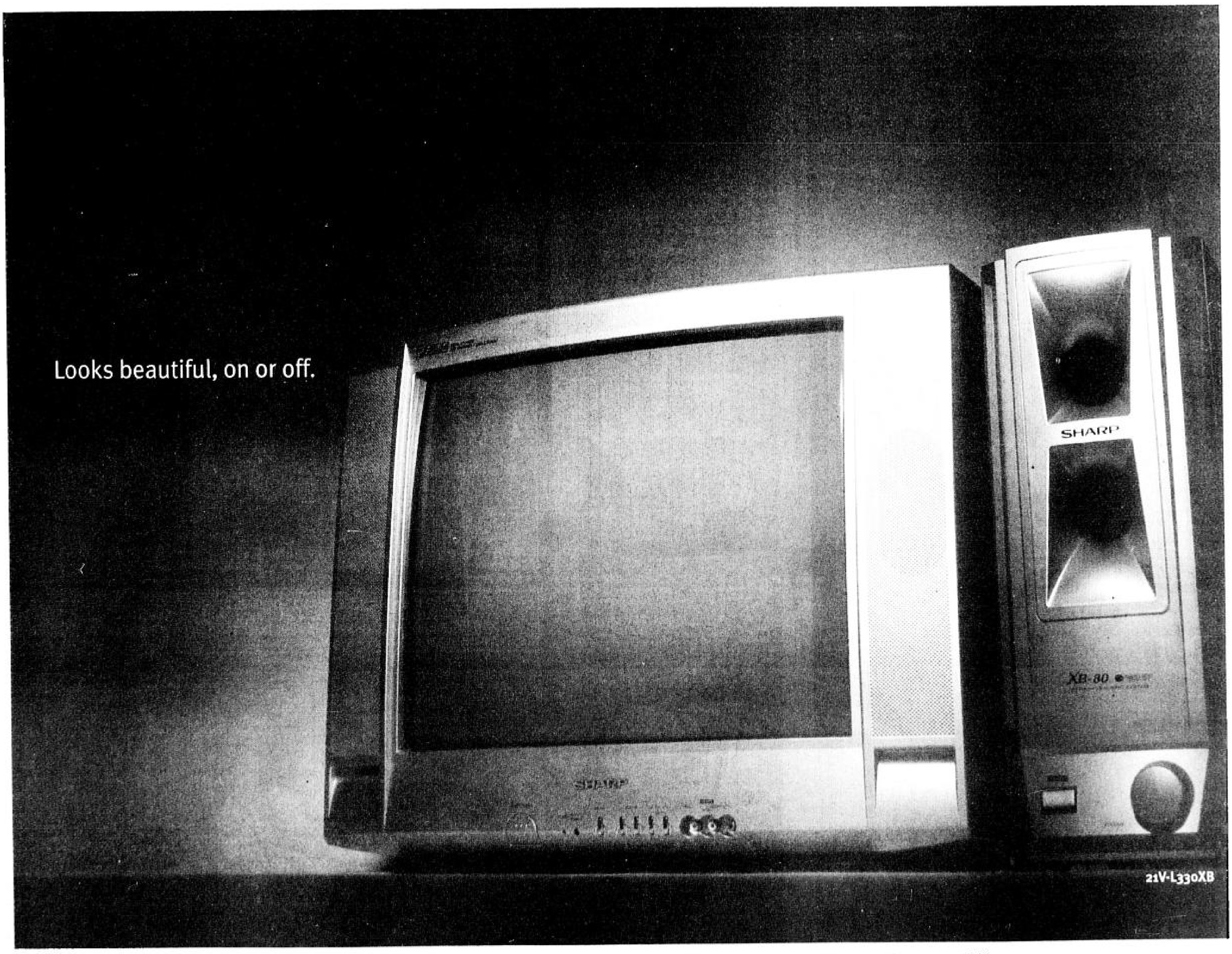

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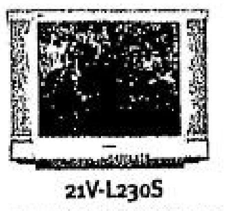
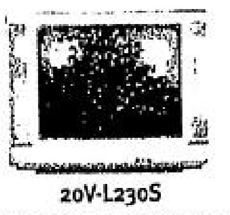
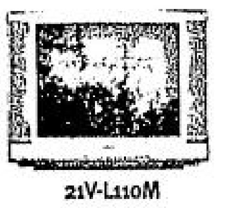
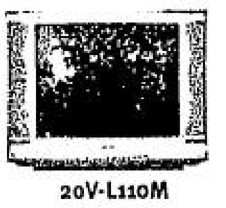

21V-L230S
51 cm.(21") MTS Stereo


20V-L230S
48 cm.(20") MTS Stereo


21V-L110M
51 cm. (21") Twin Speaker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Mayor's firm wins P20-M project to improve road

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—A P20-million road project funded by President Macapagal-Arroyo's social fund has sparked a controversy here after a mayor's private construction firm won in the bidding for the project contract.

The improvement of the Oyao-Belance-Binuangan-Guingin Road in Dupax del Norte town is now the subject of a graft case filed before the Ombudsman by the owners of R.O. Builders and Development Corp.

Renato Ongtao, R.O. Builders owner, claimed that his firm was disqualified from the bidding by the provincial government's pre-qualification, bids and awards committee (PBAC).

Ongtao said the bidding for the road project was "rigged, railroaded and designed to favor someone."

He questioned how Alfonso Castañeda Mayor Alfredo Castillo Jr., who represented CCF Contractor, was allowed to participate in the bidding for a government project.

This, Ongtao said, violated Republic Act 3019 or the Anti-Graft Corrupt Practices Act.

Castillo could not be immediately reached for comment.

Ongtao claimed that in one of the bidding sessions, Castillo told the PBAC that he had a special power of attorney to represent CCF Contractor in the bidding.

Ongtao also denounced how the PBAC supposedly "tossed around" his firm after they had it pre-disqualified, then re-qualified, only to disqualify it, by a 3-2 vote, on the day of the actual opening of the submitted bids.

"It seems that the PBAC is now making its decisions based on the rule of the majority of its members, not on established laws and rules," he said.

Minutes of the series of PBAC meetings indicated that the bids committee found conflicts as to which bidding rules to adopt—those provided under Presidential Decree 1594, which covers nationally-funded projects, or the guidelines set by the PBAC on locally implemented projects.

Under PD 1594, the bidding for projects is open to all qualified contractors. The guidelines, however, limit the bidding only to those listed in the roster of accredited contractors.

R.O. Builders is not in the roster. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers becoming widespread rains over Eastern Mindano. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33°	Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 24°	Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 35°	Lo 23°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33°	Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32°	Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31°	Lo 22°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33°	Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33°	Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi32°	Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 23°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30°	Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31°	Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32°	Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 33°	Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29°	Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29°	Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/18/02

1,559-ha plantation becomes land reform model

A LANDOWNER voluntarily giving up his 1,559-hectare palm oil plantation for agrarian reform. Muslim and Christian farmers agreeing to work together in a cooperative. Farmers directly managing an oil palm plantation. The former landowner helping the farmers market their products.

Too good to be true?

Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza said such an ideal scenario for agrarian reform was made possible recently with the distribution of 1,559 hectares of land owned by Kenram Industrial Development Inc. (KIDI) to 710 farmer-beneficiaries in Sultan Kudarat province.

"We are looking for a model in Carp implementation. I think we have found that formula in Sultan Kudarat," the DAR chief said in a statement.

Braganza credited the success of the Kenram model to the partnership forged between the plantation's owner, Juan Garcia Jr., and the farmers' cooperative—the Kenram Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Purpose Cooperative (KARBEMPCO) and the Mapantig Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Purpose Cooperative (MARBEMPCO).

Braganza said it was Garcia who had been urging DAR personnel in Sultan Kudarat to distribute his land to farmer-beneficiaries.

"This is the first time that we have encountered a landowner who is very cooperative... and has established good rapport with the farmers," he said.

Garcia said he considered the land distribution program the "most important and unforgettable in his life."

He said the oil palm plantation started about 50 years ago when his father Juan Garcia Sr. and a few workers cleared what was then a forest and planted it with ramie.

The elder Garcia later switched to oil palm production, which has become a dependable and profitable agricultural product of Sultan Kudarat.

President Macapagal-Arroyo distributed the titles to the farmers in a visit to Cotabato last week.

Comelec to nullify Negros village poll results due to rebs

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—The Commission on Elections in Western Visayas will recommend that a failure of election be declared in Barangay Winaswasan, Calatrava, Negros Occidental, after armed rebels surrounded voting precincts and intimdated voters in the village.

Victor Gaborne, acting election regional director, said "no legal election" took place in the village because voters were so scared by the presence of armed members of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade that no one wanted to cast a vote.

The arrival of soldiers allowed the elections to proceed but only at around 4 p.m., over an hour after the polling center should have been closed. Only 11 percent of the village's qualified voters decided to cast their votes.

Elections were supposed to start at 7 a.m. and end at 3 p.m. But voters shied away from casting their votes since the RPA-ABB members stationed themselves some 300 meters from the polling place.

The breakaway rebel group backed a candidate for barangay chairman, Romeo Balaud, who won.

As early as Monday, Marsha Cordero, acting provincial election supervisor, said the Winaswasan election should be declared a failure.

The members of the Board of Election Tellers were already ready to man the voting center but decided to leave because of the presence of the armed men. They returned later in the afternoon accompanied by five policemen and five Army soldiers.

The election started at 4 p.m. and ended at 7 p.m. with only 48 out of the 481 voters registered voters in the area casting their votes, Calatrava election officer Agnes Roullo told Cordero.

The counting was moved to the Calatrava municipal hall and Balaud was declared winner with 31 votes.

His opponent Modesto Baniasia, who had 17 votes, told Roullo that while he did not believe that the election was clean, he would accept the results, Cordero said.

A policeman from the Don Salvador Benedicto town, PO3 Ernesto Baniasia, affirmed the presence of the armed men in the village.

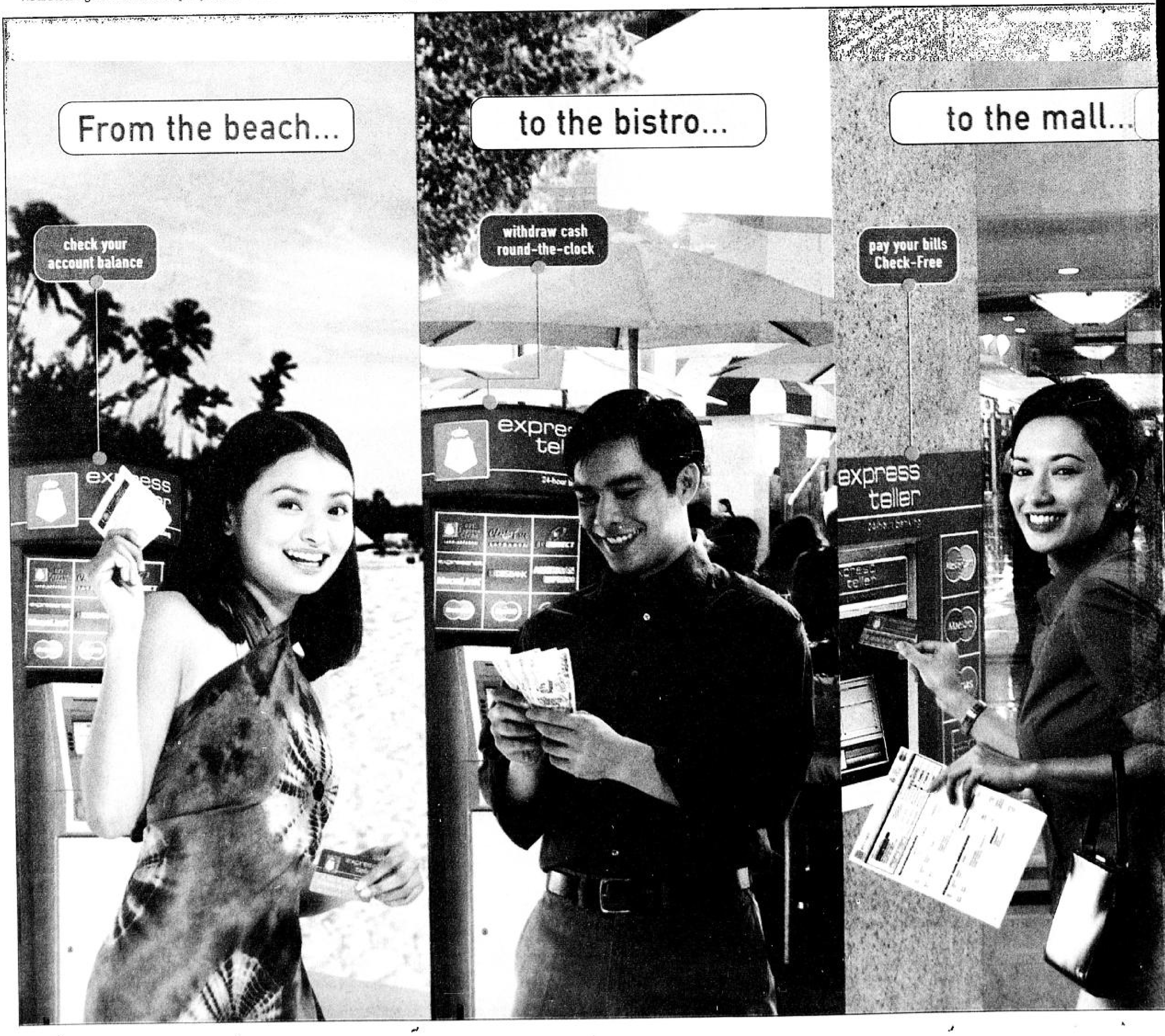
Banaasia said he went to Winaswasan to check on how his cousin, Modesto Baniasia, was doing. But he was instead held by 16 armed men who told him not to interfere. He was released unharmed soon after.

Baniasia said the 16 men carried machine guns and M-16 rifles.

Baniasia would, however, be investigated why he was in Winaswasan on Election Day, according to Senior Supt. Geary Barias, Negros Occidental police director.

Carapali Lualhati, RPA-ABB national commander, said he would initiate an investigation.

He said he went on a 10-day leave to help his mother who ran for barangay captain.



Fishermen's housing project faces seizure by finance firm

DAVAO CITY—A two-hectare housing project of the government for fishermen and their families is in danger of going to a private finance firm that holds a title to the property as collateral for a loan incurred by the previous landowner.

The property, located in Bago Aplaya here, was expropriated in 1976 by the city government at a cost of P12,000 to be developed as a fishermen's village. It is now valued at P300 per sq. m. or about P6 million.

Residents fear eviction by the Paramount Finance Corp., which claimed ownership of the property purchased by the city government from Pedrito and Rosario Bastida.

Apolinario Curambao, president of the Beneficiaries of the Bliss Housing Project (BLCA), said they were being asked by Paramount, which is represented by the law firm Yngson and Associates, to vacate the area in two months. They were also given the choice to purchase the property.

Paramount has also demanded payment of rental from Jan. 18, 1983, the year when the property was transferred to the firm, until the time the fishermen vacate the area.

The average rent is pegged at P10,000 per hectare per annum. Should the fishermen be forced to pay rent, they would need to cough up a total of P380,000 including interest.

In a letter on May 10, 2002, Paramount lawyer Manuel Yngson said the residents were "misled by the city government when it claimed that it owned the subject property and donated the same to the then MHS (Ministry of Human Settlements) for housing project for which you are now beneficiaries."

Yngson said the Paramount acquired the property from Pedro Bastida in "good faith and for value."

Paramount, though under liquidation of the Central Bank of the Philippines, must sell the property at its market value, the lawyer said.

"Perhaps you are not aware that if our client sells subject property at a price way below market their liquidator could be sued by the Ombudsman, for while the property is privately owned, the liquidator is a public official. In such case, the sale will be rescinded and you can even be implicated in the case," Yngson said in the letter.

Curambao said the fishermen have no money to pay rent or buy the property, which was donated by the city government.

Curambao said the residents, who have grown big to some 200 families from 50, are mostly fishermen.

Lawyer Jeannette Cabigas of Paramount said the property served as collateral for a loan acquired by Pedro Bastida in 1978 from Paramount. Bastida failed to pay the loan. *Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Fault finding starts over ship collision

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The Special Board of Marine Inquiry will convene on Friday to investigate the collision of cargo vessels MV Romeo and MV Aleson Container Carrier 5 that resulted in the death of MV Romeo's ship captain.

Two crew members of MV Romeo, which sank as a result of the collision, remained missing until yesterday.

Commander Eduardo Legazpi, chairman of the SBMI who is also the deputy commander of the Central Eastern Visayas Coast Guard, said human error could have caused the accident.

Legazpi said they would determine in the inquiry why the collision happened and who should be blamed for it. The crew members of MV Romeo and MV Aleson would be summoned to the hearing on Friday.

However, officials of the two vessels have already started blaming each other.

Shipmaster Ramil Cabeltes of MV Aleson, in his one-page marine protest, blamed the crew of MV Romeo for the collision, claiming it was caused by the "negligence of the master of the vessel MV Romeo."

But third mate Gilbert Salazar of MV Romeo said the blame falls on MV Aleson's crew.

"We maintained our position on the starboard side... it could not be explained (why) suddenly we saw MV Aleson Carrier V already very near our vessel," Salazar's protest read.

Salazar said they had good communications with MV Aleson when their vessel left the Apo Cement Corp. (Apocemco) wharf in Barangay Tinaan, Naga, Cebu, shortly before midnight of July 15.

MV Romeo was carrying 31,250 bags of cement and was bound for Legazpi City when it collided with MV Aleson, which was about to dock at the port to unload cement.

MV Romeo sunk immediately. MV Aleson suffered minor damages. All its 18 crew members were unharmed.

MV Romeo's crew jumped into the water as the ship began to sink but the skipper, Romeo Legislador, was found dead in the water by rescuers. He reportedly died of internal injuries. Only 20 crew members were rescued. Two others remained missing.

Coast Guard divers were still searching for missing crane operator Rodolfo Malaga and deck watch officer Henry Merto.

The divers, however, said if the two were trapped inside the vessel, it would be difficult to locate them since the area was at least 493 meters deep.

BASILIO
ATINA 14-A

POLL WASTE
Garbage, lots of it, is one of the immediate results of any electoral exercise. A street sweeper in Davao City starts the job of cleaning up what turned out to be a literally and figuratively dirty barangay elections.
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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel ◎ Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Palawan folk welcome new vicariate

By Dominique Monera-Tabora
Taytay, Palawan

THE SOFT light of the late afternoon sun bathed the old Spanish fort towering against the sea. Schoolchildren scampered in the grounds while students danced on the street as the band marched to the fort named Puerto de Sta. Isabel resplendent with white and yellow flags.

The fort, built in 1667, is a symbol of the Taytayanos' hard and patient labor. It is also the playground and refuge for prayer and silence of the man that Palaweños have grown to love dearly.

From the moment Vatican announced that Pope John Paul II had created the new Apostolic Vicariate of Taytay and appointed Msgr. Edgardo S. Juanich as its apostolic administrator last May 13, there has been much rejoicing among the people of Palawan.

Thus last July 11, Palaweños from all walks of life joyfully celebrated the ordination of the first Palaweño bishop in the cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Puerto Princesa City.

Then they traveled 250 km to the municipality of Taytay to witness his installation in the new vicariate in northern Palawan the following day.

Church growth

The creation of the Vicariate of Taytay is significant as it recognizes the growth of the Church in Palawan, said Bishop Pedro D. Arigo, vicar apostolic of Puerto Princesa.

It was a historical event for the people of Palawan and the clergy who cried and applauded when the Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, Most Rev. Antonio Franco, ordained Bishop Juanich and installed him in the new vicariate last July 12.

Around 80 priests and 10 bishops from Zamboanga, Samar, Mindoro, Laguna and Manila attended the episcopal ordination.

The installation was held in the Sta. Monica Church, one of the oldest churches in Palawan built by the Augustinian-Recollect missionaries.

The Church, made with the same stone slabs used in the Puerto de Sta. Isabel, was believed to be much older than the fort. It was burned during the Muslim raid of 1739 and was reconstructed later on.

It is the same Church where Bishop Juanich, whose home is just in front of the Church, was baptized and confirmed.

For Taytay resident and provincial board member Edmund Balerite, having a bishop from their hometown and being chosen as the center of the Church in northern Palawan "is better than winning the jackpot in the lottery."

Taytay is one of the oldest towns in Palawan. It was the first capital of Palawan during the late 16th century. It was only in 1873 that the capital of Palawan was transferred from Taytay to Cuyo.

Fr. Roderick Caabay, spiritual director of the Seminario de San Jose, said the selection of Bishop Juanich "is a good choice as he is progressive and pro-poor and this is what our times need considering that there are more poor people today."

The bishop

Bishop Juanich is known among the clergy as the priest who gave up his prestigious positions as parish priest of Puerto Princesa and episcopal vicar of the Central District parishes, with all the relative conveniences and allowance, just to live with the indigenous people and marginalized fishermen in the remote town of Sibaltan, El Nido.

"I left the Cathedral parish because of an inner and compelling desire within me to work and start a new parish in the north," explained then Msgr. Juanich to a devout parishioner.

But life in El Nido was far from idyllic, said his assistant for almost four years, Jun Mones, who drives the priest in a motorbike to remote barangays just to say Mass and attend to the needs of the parishioners.

"He bears every hardship with a smile," said El Nido Vice Mayor Leonor Coral of Bishop Juanich, whom she credited for touching the heart of the minorities.

APOSTOLIC Nuncio to the Philippines Most Rev. Antonio Franco applauds new Bishop Edgardo Sabaria Juanich after the latter's ordination rites at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Puerto Princesa City.

GERALDFORD P. TICKE

Known for his solidarity with the people, Bishop Juanich, early in his priesthood, fought for the residents of Calauit as they were forced to vacate the island during the Marcos regime to make way for its conversion as a game refuge park of the presidential son.

"I will never forget that day, March 19, 1977, when I said mass before the people were evicted from Calauit. I did not sleep the night before as I was just talking and listening to the grief of the people," recalled Bishop Juanich.

Michaela Tamayo, retired principal of the Busuanga National High School, and other residents of Busuanga traveled via Superferry just to attend the ordination of Bishop Juanich in Puerto Princesa City.

She said Bishop Juanich awakened the spirituality of the people in Busuanga. That is why they really love him.

Tamayo recounted one incident where she gave then Father Juanich food at Christmas only to discover that instead of eating the food, the priest gave it to a parishioner sick with tuberculosis.

"He really administers to the needs of the poor," she added.

Ecumenism

Parishioners from the towns of Brooke's Point, Narra, Roxas, El Nido, Taytay and even of the island municipality of Linapacan traveled to Puerto Princesa City just to attend his ordination. Bishop Juanich is known for his kindness and compassion to the poor as well as his gentleness and purity of heart.

During the testimonial dinner hosted by the provincial government of Palawan, Norma Valencia, provincial board secretary, attested that Bishop Juanich is a firm believer of ecumenism.

"Pastors of various churches in Palawan remember Msgr. Juanich as the Catholic priest who fosters Christian unity," said Valencia.

"Even though I am not Catholic, I really love him as he has a different perspective," said Mariglo Laririt of Bishop Juanich, after working with him in the El Nido Media Organization (EMO).

It was the dedication and concern for the environment of the EMO under the leadership of Bishop Juanich that prompted the Palawan Tropical Forestry Protection Programme and the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement to fund the establishment of a community radio in El Nido.

Like his mentor, St. Benedict, Bishop Juanich's thrust is ecological, to protect God's creation. Coincidentally, Bishop Juanich was ordained a priest on July 11, 1976 and a bishop on July 11, the feast of St. Benedict.

Bishop Juanich has a special devotion to St. Benedict because of the saint's love for work and prayer, "Ora et Labora."

Like St. Benedict, whose spirituality is called the spirituality of the soil, Bishop Juanich has a passion for planting and is happiest in remote parishes. He devotes much of his time to the needs of poor fishermen and farmers.

The coat-of-arms of the new vicariate reflects Bishop Juanich's love for the countryside and his simple lifestyle as well as his concern for the ecology.

He wants to form peoples' organizations and eventually, Basic Ecclesiastical Communities among farmers and fishermen.

Evangelization

The establishment of the new vicariate and the appointment of its first apostolic administrator is expected to promote a more effective Church administration, camaraderie and teamwork among priests, expand pastoral ministry and conducive opportunities for spiritual renewal and knowledge-updating for the clergy.

About 70 percent of the 755,412 population of Palawan are Catholics.

However, the geographical situation of Palawan, aggravated by poor means of transportation and communication, hampers evangelization in the province as the territorial jurisdiction of Palawan covers 1,489,655 hectares.

The road conditions, especially in the north, are rugged and dangerous during rainy season. Sea travel to island parishes is treacherous and difficult.

Thus, in November 2000, Apostolic Vicar Pedro Arigo submitted a formal application to Rome for the division of Palawan into two apostolic vicariates, taking into consideration the pastoral needs of the vicariate.

The new vicariate is composed of 16 parishes, eight of which are island parishes covering a land area of 769,110 hectares.

The Apostolic Vicariate of Puerto Princesa composed of 23 parishes, including the islands of Balabac and Cagayancillo, remains under the pastoral governance of Bishop Arigo.

Diocesan shrine honors St. Anthony

By Romulo O. Ponte
Pila, Laguna

THE ST. Anthony of Padua Parish Church in Pila, Laguna, is now a diocesan shrine after Bishop Francisco C. San Diego of the Diocese of San Pablo declared it as such last week, with the approval of Pope John Paul II.

As a shrine, the St. Anthony de Padua Church will become the site of pilgrimage of the saint's devotees.

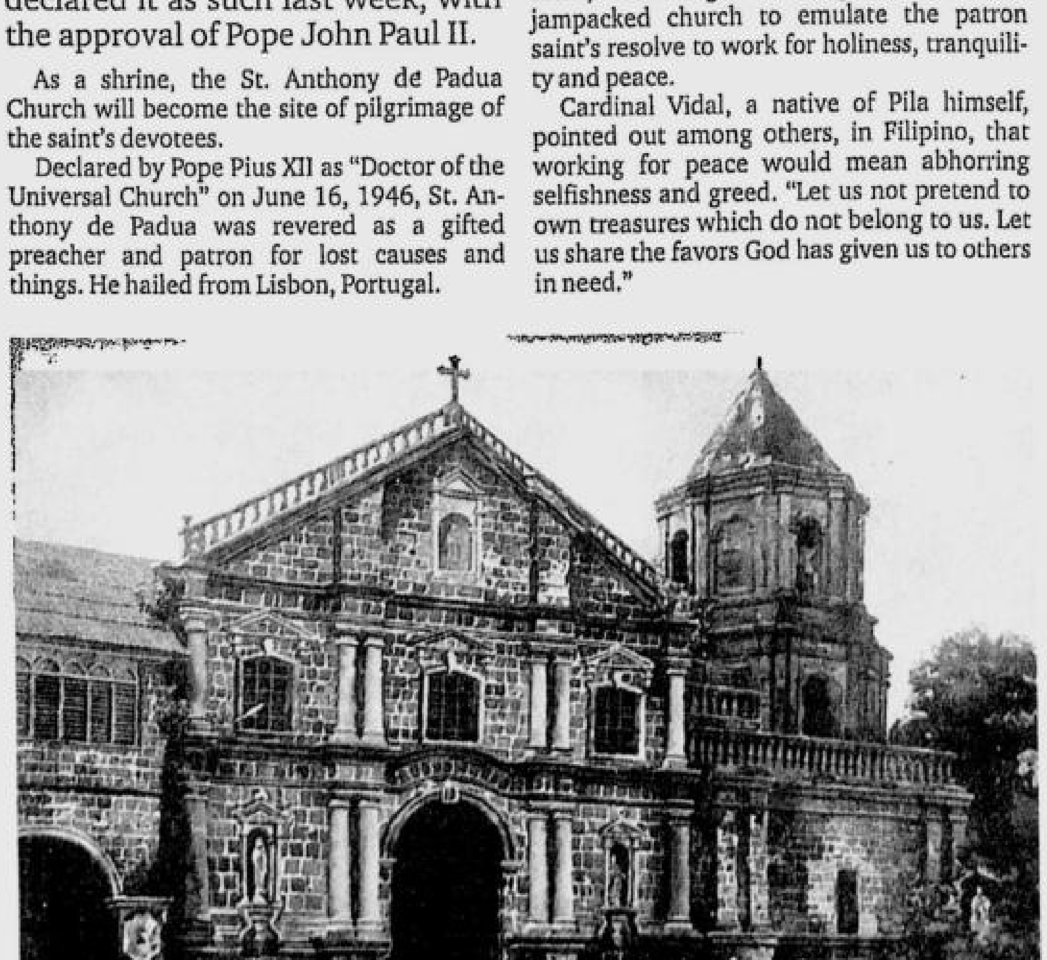
Declared by Pope Pius XII as "Doctor of the Universal Church" on June 16, 1946, St. Anthony de Padua was revered as a gifted preacher and patron for lost causes and things. He hailed from Lisbon, Portugal.

San Diego reminded the devotees during the ceremonies to lead in advancing the mission of St. Anthony towards holiness.

Even Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal who was the guest of honor during the ceremonies, exhorted the devotees to propagate the saint's mission for peace based on justice and to abhor greed.

In his homily during the concelebrated Mass, Vidal urged churchgoers inside the jampacked church to emulate the patron saint's resolve to work for holiness, tranquility and peace.

Cardinal Vidal, a native of Pila himself, pointed out among others, in Filipino, that working for peace would mean abhorring selfishness and greed. "Let us not pretend to own treasures which do not belong to us. Let us share the favors God has given us to others in need."



"OLD church in Pila", a watercolor painting by Paul Escobañas

The Pila Church as a diocesan shrine, according to the Cardinal, is a historical landmark as this is the first-ever declared in the Philippines dedicated to St. Anthony of Padua.

Being a diocesan shrine, Cardinal Vidal said, St. Anthony would continue to protect the people of Pila, the diocese and the country.

"What the patron did in his own hometown in Padua, he continued to do in Pila; hence, the parish, since its establishment in 1576, has continued to enjoy God's protection from the devastation of the first and second world wars and the like," the Cardinal said.

He noted that after centuries of existence, the old houses, plaza and the church—including the faith of the people and peace among Pilaenos—have been preserved (literally) in whole.

Fr. Melchor Barcenas, parish administrator of Pila, said the event was the first in Laguna and the Philippine churches.

The late Msgr. Renato Cosico, former parish priest, started propagating the Tuesday devotion to San Antonio de Padua five years ago.

He introduced floral offerings to the saint and the blessing of donated bread for distribution to the devotees.

According to documents, the church of Pila was originally established in Pagalangan (now part of Victoria town) in 1578. It became a parish on June 13, 1581, making it the first parish church dedicated to St. Anthony in the entire country.

Church records also showed that Spanish Franciscan Friars Juan de Plasencia and Diego de Oropesa established the original church of Pila in Pagalangan (which is now in ruins) through the permission of the then Spanish superior governor.

This lasted for more than 100 years until it was transferred to its present site of Pila or Villa de Pila, which was formerly called barrio Sta. Clara.

"Every time Pila celebrates its anniversary, it always looks back to its former beginnings in Pagalangan, Victoria," said Msgr. Domingo Dolleton, vicar general and former parish priest of Pila for about 10 years.

St. Anthony's intercessions

ARISTOTLE Natividad and his wife had been married for four years and had tried several ways to bear a child but to no avail.

ST. Anthony

Both working in Manila, the couple traveled from Manila to Pila to attend Mass every Tuesday afternoon for nine consecutive weeks. After a few months, the wife became pregnant and delivered a baby girl whom the couple named Antonette in honor of St. Anthony of Padua.

A poor eye patient, identified only as E. B. Bambo, 67, needed at least P60,000 for eye surgery. She decided to offer prayers to St. Anthony. After several weeks, the elderly woman experienced improvement in her condition. When she consulted a doctor, her eye ailment was miraculously gone.

Dr. Jerry Jeremias Canonizado, a doctor of philosophy and a cancer patient in Pila, saw to it that he did not miss a single novena in honor of St. Anthony every Tuesday and to ask God that he be healed. His request was granted. Canonizado claimed that St. Anthony was God's instrument in his healing.

An unidentified couple in Los Banos was still childless after six years of marriage. Both had almost given up hope of having a child.

The couple had rejected several invitations by their close friend, the late Msgr. Renato Cosico, former Pila parish priest, to attend Masses in honor of St. Anthony of Padua in Pila church.

One day, the reluctant couple decided to try attending Masses just to please their visibly disappointed friend-pastor. They completed the nine-day novena.

At first, there was nothing significant during those Masses, the couple said, but a few months later, the wife appeared and walked in front of the congregation during one of the novena Masses and disclosed that she was four months pregnant.

For devotees of St. Anthony of Padua, the patron saint of the Pila Catholic church, he had been for centuries an instrument of cure, protection, fertility and recovery of lost things.

For those who had been touched and continue to be moved by the radiating power of the saint's effective channeling of God's eternal abundance, it is not surprising that the St. Anthony of Padua Parish Church is declared the first Shrine dedicated to the saint throughout the Philippines.

INQUIRER correspondent Romulo Ponte serves as the priest of the La Resurreccion Parish in Victoria, Laguna.

Bishop tells solons: Face truth, stop blaming US envoy

From page A1

The President, however, did not feel offended by Ricciardone's remark that corruption was driving away foreign investors.

During a visit to Bohol on Wednesday, Ms Macapagal directed the Department of Justice and the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission to submit their reports on what the two agencies are doing to stamp out corruption.

For his part, Speaker Jose de Venecia said he would file a bill seeking the abolition of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, one of the government agencies perceived to be corrupt.

The Philippine Consultative Assembly said the President should start its anti-corruption drive by investigating the alleged rice smuggling of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo. Deputy Customs Commissioner Ray Allas denied the First Gentleman was involved in smuggling.

Archbishop Cruz

Cruz, head of the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan, said the reaction of some legislators to Ricciardone's statements was understandable.

"Their pride was hurt," Cruz said. "It's very human to be hurt when told that you are corrupt by another person, much less by a foreigner."

But he advised government officials to look at themselves and do better because "what the ambassador said was true although difficult to accept."

Senator Villar, however, said Ricciardone had no right to air such criticisms.

"What is his motive for saying that?" Villar asked. "He is an ambassador and a guest here. It's highly unusual for him to commit that blunder. You don't criticize your host country. That's very elementary in diplomacy."

Villar said that while corruption in government was bad, he insisted that it was not an issue as far as foreign investors were concerned.

He said investors were concerned more about policies and incentives.

Senator Ople said Ricciardone must make "make an expression of regret and to speak on behalf of his government.'

Barbers

Sen. Robert Barbers, however said the comments by the ambassador should not be taken as an insult but as a "constructive" statement of concern on the adverse effects of corruption.

"It is not the first time our attention was called with regard to the problems of our bureaucracy particularly on corruption," Barbers said.

"Even some sectors like the business community have often been critical of this matter and have been suggesting solutions," he added.

Barbers said Ricciardone meant well when he made those remarks.

Sen. Loren Legarda said her fellow legislators should "set aside their emotions and look at the substance" of what Ricciardone's statement.

Ricciardone earlier said that foreign investors had complained to him about the problem of corruption in the country.

In Tagbilaran City, Ms Macapagal said she had asked officials "to be very vigorous against the campaign against corruption," and vowed to work closely with legislators on a special law dealing with corrupt officials.

Nevertheless, she declared her confidence on Chief Justice Davide that he "will do as he has been doing what must be done in order to fight corruption in the judiciary."

Supreme Court records showed that the tribunal had penalized 352 judges for various offenses since 1999.

The high court also launched last year a five-year, P4.3-billion project aimed at improving the delivery of justice by "re-engineering court management systems." ***Reports from Yolanda Fuertes and Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Jhunnex Napallacan and Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau; Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Carlito Pablo, Cynthia D. Balana; Juliet Labog-Javellana in Manila***

Ombudsman dared: Charge FVR for Amari deal

From page A1

dom Island had been reclaimed by PEA under the deal at a cost of P1.894 billion, or P1,250 per square meter. The agreed price was way below the selling price of P90,000 per sq. m. for adjacent lots at the time, according to Maceda.

Maceda had said the deal deprived the government P120 billion in potential revenue.

Brokering fees

Chavez said the brokering fees in the PEA-Amari deal amounted to more than P1 billion, which were distributed among many people. He did not say whether Ramos, Cayetano and Abejo got any brokering fees.

Maceda had claimed that kickbacks from the deal went to the 1995 election kitty of the Lakas-NUCD.

Under the amended joint venture agreement signed on March 30, 1999, and approved by Estrada on May 28, 1999, Amari should reimburse PEA the sum of P1.894 billion representing the actual cost in partially reclaiming the Freedom Island.

With the high court's decision, PEA will no longer be reimbursed by Amari.

It was Chavez who filed the petition that sought to nullify the deal, saying that the government stood to lose billions of pesos in the deal.

"Some government officials have to be held responsible criminally for the original contract as well as the renegotiated contract involving the reclaimed areas along the Manila-Cavite coastal areas," Chavez said yesterday.

He said Ramos was the brains behind the deal, along with Cayetano, and his former government corporate counsel Virgilio Abejo.

"They should be the principal respondents because without their go-signal, there would have been no joint venture agreement," the former solicitor general said.

The Supreme Court declared the deal void and unconstitutional because it sought to sell part of the national patrimony to a private corporation.

Dangerous

The Supreme Court said the PEA-Amari deal, if allowed to be implemented, would set a very dangerous precedent: it would open the floodgates for private corporations and individuals to acquire public lands through PEA.

"To allow vast areas of reclaimed lands of the public domain to be transferred to PEA as private lands will sanction a gross violation of the constitutional ban on private corporations from acquiring any kind of alienable land of the public domain," the Supreme Court said.

PEA could then "transfer several hundreds of hectares of lands to a single private corporation in only one transaction."

"This scheme will effectively nullify the constitutional ban in Section 3, Article 12 of the 1987 Constitution which was intended to diffuse equitably the ownership of alienable lands of the public domain among Filipinos, now numbering over 80-million strong," the high court said.

Chavez said that Ramos, Cayetano and Abejo had sought to sell part of the country's seas to private corporations when they pushed for the PEA-Amari deal.

"The Senate said the contract was illegal and yet Ramos pushed through with it. I don't know if he prevailed upon his presidential legal counsel Cayetano, as well as the government corporate counsel, to come out with an opinion that will pave the way for the joint-venture agreement," Chavez said.

Chavez said he could not understand why Cayetano and Abejo had given Ramos that advice considering that private corporations such as Amari could not own public lands.

FIDEL V. RAMOS: Will an investigation of his alleged involvement in the PEA-Amari deal be Desierto's swan song?

FRANCISCO CHAVEZ: Daring the Ombudsman.

"I cannot also see how Cayetano and Abejo would have given the advice to Ramos to proceed with the joint venture agreement covering even submerged lands. So in effect, Cayetano and Abejo were telling the President that he could sell the sea. But selling the sea is just like selling the Quirino Grandstand, the Luneta, Jones Bridge and other public property, which are beyond the commerce of man," Chavez said.

Chavez said that in fairness to the Ramos officials "there is sufficient basis to indict Estrada for renegotiating and signing a new contract between PEA and Amari. His presidential legal counsel should also be included in the charge sheet."

"This should send a signal to the Ombudsman to conduct his own independent investigation regardless of the fact that there is no private complainant because as the Supreme Court said, the subject matter of the reclaimed area is of transcendental public importance," Chavez said.

Chavez said he would write Desierto and urge him to conduct the preliminary investigation of the graft charge against Ramos, Abejo, Cayetano and even Estrada.

"That is why I will never be Ombudsman because nobody will nominate me. No President will appoint me as Ombudsman because I am perceived as somebody no one can dictate on," Chavez said.

Media groups back UN drive to help 'cities work for all'

"TO POOL resources and help cities work for all."

With that, tri-media groups threw in their full support behind the United Nations-led global campaign on "Good Urban Governance" (GUG).

The Philippine Press Institute (PPI) and the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas (KBP) are set to sign a Memorandum of Agreement with local convenors during the campaign's regional launch in Manila on July 19-20 at the Century Park Hotel.

The campaign aims at translating global GUG norms in the Philippine setting. It focuses on poverty reduction through improved urban governance.

And governance is not government alone. It involves "all sectors" and puts a premium on "consensus."

"The cities are bursting at the seams. We need to again rationalize development priorities. Media can serve as catalysts for change," says KBP chair Serge Remonde.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP), lead convenor here, says the campaign has initiated a global debate by arguing that GUG is characterized by "sustainability, decentralization, equity, efficiency, transparency and accountability, civic engagement and citizenship and security, and that these are interdependent and mutually reinforcing."

"It is the missing link between anti-poverty programs and poverty reduction."

During the launch, at least 31 city mayors will submit for scrutiny by their peers and development partners—including media—their respective "very concrete" City Action Plans, which are supposed to have localized the GUG norms.

"The campaign opens the doors of governance to mainstream the poor's agenda in city development plans," says the UNDP.

"As partners, media remain even more the watchdog. Media are just a reflection of the power of the people, and the campaign is allowing people to set the urban agenda," says Joe Pavia, PPI executive director.

Convenors also include the Center for Community Journalism and Development, the Housing and Urban Development Council, the Philippine Urban Forum, and the League of Cities of the Philippines.

Initiated by the United Nations in 1999, the campaign has been catching on in several developing countries.

It advocates for the "Inclusive City—a place where (all) . . . regardless of (status), are enabled to productively participate in opportunities cities have to offer."

A question of jurisdiction

By Donna Cueto

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has assigned three prosecutors to handle the preliminary investigation of the Nida Blanca murder case. The DOJ panel is chaired by senior state prosecutor Archimedes Manabat, with members, senior prosecutors Aida Macapagal and Mark Jalandoni.

DOJ Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño said the panel is given 60 days to evaluate the records of the case, including the documentary and physical evidence, after which it would decide whether there is probable cause to file the case in court.

"By next week, we'll start issuing the subpoena for the respondents to submit their counter-affidavit. If there is a need to conduct clarificatory hearings, then the panel will set the case for clarificatory hearing," Zuño said.

He said that the subpoena for Rod Strunk would still be sent to his last known address, which is at 28 Nathan Street, White Plains Subdivision, Quezon City, where he and the late actress used to live.

This will be done although Strunk was allowed to leave the country last January to attend to his ailing mother.

"As of now, there is no official report that Strunk is out of the country, so we have to have an official report," he said.

Zuño explained that if Strunk would not return to the country, that could be deemed a waiver of his right to submit his counter-affidavit.

A last resort for the government would be the seeking of Strunk's extradition from the United States.

"To resort to extradition, the case must be filed in court first, then the court should issue the warrant of arrest. It's a long process," Zuño explained

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Ople appointment to DFA a done deal, says official

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE APPOINTMENT of opposition Sen. Blas Ople as secretary of foreign affairs after the joint opening of Congress on Monday is a done deal.

"He will be appointed after the Sona," a high government official said, referring to the State of the Nation Address that President Macapagal-Arroyo will deliver before the two chambers on Monday.

Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama confirmed that Ople would be named foreign secretary despite opposition from some civil society groups and lawmakers.

"My gut feel is that it is Senator Ople (who will be foreign secretary)," Villarama yesterday told the INQUIRER.

He cited the President's decision to take over the Department of Foreign Affairs on a concurrent capacity as a "signal" that the post was intended for Ople.

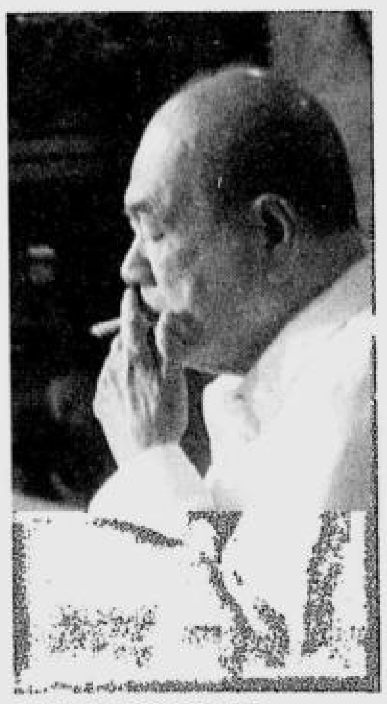
Villarama met with Ople when the senator was in Los Angeles a few weeks ago to relay Malacañang's offer. The congressman once served as chief of staff to both Ms Macapagal and Ople.

The official, who did not want to be named, said that while Ople would still vote with the opposition senators on Monday, it was "already understood" that he would resign from the Senate to accept the Cabinet appointment.

Thus, the official said the administration "problem in the Senate will only be for a short period," referring to the opposition's move to control the committees.

The official said Senate President Franklin Drilon would stay on as Senate President on Monday because the chamber was evenly split at 12-12. Thirteen votes are needed to elect, or in this case unseat, a Senate president.

The source said the administration was still counting on "one or two" other senators to cross over to the majority to secure a "comfortable leadership."



SEN. BLAS OPLE: His appointment as foreign secretary is a "done deal," say those in the inner circle of power. JESS YUSON

Senate wars derail GMA economic plan

From page A1

This has prompted Malacañang to offer opposition Sen. Blas Ople the foreign affairs portfolio in an effort to break the deadlock.

"While some sectors point to the adverse economic impact of recent political developments, I personally believe that this is temporary as we do have solid and good economic fundamentals," Buenaventura said.

"That the Philippine economy has recovered a lot of ground is clear. I can also say that the macroeconomic environment today is much kinder to renewal of confidence and expansion of productive undertaking," he stressed.

The President is set to deliver her annual State of the Nation Address to Congress on Monday, outlining her priorities over the next 12 months.

She has expressed confidence Congress would fall behind her despite the leadership quarrel.

Buenaventura said the administration's economic team remained "optimistic that once they (Congress) sort out the leadership issue, we should be able to get those economic reform bills passed because there is no major hang-up regardless of who" will eventually take the Senate presidency.

Among the proposed laws derailed by the gridlock include a bill seeking to offer incentives for the creation of private sector-led asset management companies. It is aimed at relieving banks of their bad debt overhang that hinders fresh lending.

Buenaventura said Congress also needed to pass amendments to the country's bankruptcy law "to even out and balance the rights of creditors so that it is not only in favor of the borrowers."

The others include the abolition of a documentary stamps tax to lower the cost of financial transactions, amendments to Bangko Sentral and deposit insurance statutes, and giving more teeth to an anti-money laundering law passed only last year to escape potential sanctions from developed countries.

"There are no ideological differences between the opposition and the administration senators," Buenaventura said.

"They can fight all they want on the political side but they know that on the economic front, they have to agree to reasonable proposals on economic reforms.

"Because if the opposition wins (in the next presidential election in 2004), they'll need it as badly as the present administration," he said.

Reasonable

In an attempt to break the impasse, opposition Senators Aquilino Pimentel and Edgardo Angara met last night with the administration coalition represented by Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste.

"I expect a reasonable settlement of the problem affecting the running of the Senate," Pimentel said before the meeting.

Pimentel said he would push for an "arrangement that will revolve around . . . the identification of bills that need to be passed for the good of the nation."

He said there would be no talk of surrender or capitulation. "What we will talk about is what will be good for the nation," he said.

The erstwhile minority leader, who was installed majority leader by the "new majority" on June 3, said there was no need for a third party to arbitrate the conflict in the Senate.

"We are not small children. We are reasonable people and we are friends. Therefore, we can talk with one another without need of any intermediary," he said.

In Cebu City, Angara expressed confidence that the opposition would keep its majority status in the Senate.

Asked what would be discussed in the meeting, Angara said, "Our talking point is why raid us?"

Angara said it was Ms Macapagal's "continued intervention in the affairs of the Senate" that was disrupting the cordial relationships among the senators.

He said the administration's offer of top government posts to opposition senators was "intended and calculated to destroy the Senate."

But Angara said he was optimistic that before Congress resumed session the senators would come up with a fair solution to the leadership problem.

"Senators are pragmatic people, we always look for solutions and we hope to find one before Monday," he said.

Angara said administration senators should "not worry" if the opposition controlled the Senate. He said the 9th Congress under the administration of former President Fidel Ramos was the most productive despite the opposition's control of the Senate.

Division of labor

In a talk with the INQUIRER, Ople said the opposition was set to offer last night a "division of labor" between administration and opposition senators. The arrangement would cover committee chairmanships and Senate titles.

Ople said he had agreed to give back the post of Senate pro tempore to Sen. Manny Villar to allow the opposition to retain major committees.

"I am not very keen about retaining the post of Senate president pro tempore. It is an expendable position," Ople said in a telephone interview.

"I'm willing to give it up to Villar if it is needed in forging cooperation in the Senate," he said.

Ople said he assumed the post because he was elected by the "new majority" led by Angara on June 3.

Ople said the Angara group would insist on retaining the opposition's hold on the blue ribbon, energy and defense and national security committees.

He said that under the old setup, the blue ribbon committee was "very passive" and soft on its investigation of allegations of irregularities in the government.

Informed that the administration did not want Angara to occupy the post because of his alleged involvement in the coco levy deal, an issue being debated in the committee, Ople said it would depend on Angara whether he wanted to retain it.

In the case of the energy committee, Ople said that his group would insist that John Osmeña continue to assume chairmanship instead of Sen. Renato Cayetano.

He said the committee on defense and national security was first offered by the present leadership to Sen. Rodolfo Biazon but the latter rejected it and instead took the vice chairmanship.

In the "new majority" setup, Biazon has agreed to get it back from Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, according to Ople.

Asked to comment on Ople's offer to give up the pro tempore post, Villar praised Ople for being a "true statesman."

"I have high respect for Senator Ople and I don't want to make any negative statements about him. If it was not Ka Blas Ople speaking, my reaction would have been violent," he said.

As to the opposition's conditions to retain at least three major committees, Villar said it would still depend on the resolution of two issues.

One, whether Ople would accept the position of secretary of foreign affairs and second, if Sen. Ramon Revilla would make it to the opening of Congress on Monday. Revilla is back in the United States for medical treatment. ***Reports from AFP, Rocky Nazareno and Cynthia D. Balana in Manila and Jolene R. Bulambot PDI Visayas Bureau***

BFAD-ABBOTT ADVISORY
GAIN & GAINPLUS

The Bureau of Food & Drugs and Abbott Laboratories are issuing this joint advisory to clarify the situation regarding Gain and Gainplus.

GAINPLUS, NOT GAIN

Affected products were isolated to a single packaging line and **only Gainplus 200gm pouches in carton box were affected.**

LIMITED TO 200gm BOX

Abbott Laboratories reiterates that only four batches of 200gm pouches of Gainplus were affected. **All canned products of Gain and Gainplus are not affected.**

NO HEALTH RISK - SAFE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

"It is the evaluation of the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration that consumption of the named product does not pose a health risk."
-Danish Veterinary and Food Administration

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200gm boxes, GAINPLUS Lot #: 85583YX;85585YX;86617YX;86620YX

Signed:

Dr. William D. Torres, PhD
Director IV
Department of Health
Bureau of Food & Drugs Administration

Edwin D. Feist
General Manager
ABBOTT LABORATORIES (PHILIPPINES)

Kris' affairs distress Aquinos

BETOY JOHNSON
KRIS AQUNO: A replay of a mini-series

MARQUEZ

SALVADOR

From page A1

affair with actor Phillip Salvador who, like Marquez, is married. They separated in 1999 because Salvador could not get an annulment from his New York-based wife, Sony Dabao. They have a son, Joshua, who is now 7.

Marquez is on his last four-year term as mayor of Parañaque City. He was elected three times to the post. He is also an actor and was a basketball player before he joined show business. Last March, he filed for an annulment of his marriage to actress Alma Moreno. His lawyer is former Solicitor General Frank Chavez. Moreno did not file a counter-suit.

In a TV interview on Tuesday, Marquez confirmed his affair with Kris.

He described her as "the woman I want to grow old with."

Congressman Aquino was hesitant to talk to the INQUIRER about Kris' affair, saying he did not want to exacerbate his quarrel with his youngest sister and further fan the controversy.

But he admitted that the Aquino family, "especially my (other) sisters," was "distressed" with Kris' new choice of boyfriend.

Cory leaves it to God

He said their mother, former President Corazon Aquino, was dealing with the issue through prayers.

"Well, she can speak for herself. But you know my Mom, she will pray and leave it all to God," he said.

Aquino said he did not want to comment too much on the issue, saying he has not fully reconciled with Kris over her failed relationship with Salvador.

The congressman revealed that his relationship with Kris remained strained after the Salvador affair. He said he did not talk to Kris for two years after that.

He described his present relationship with Kris as "just above the 'how's-the-weather'" exchanges.

He said they would sometimes see each other on Sundays, "if at all," and that he would sometimes get to play with her son.

Start of romance

The romance of Kris and Marquez reportedly started to bloom in March, after Kris did an exclusive television interview with Marquez, who talked about his separation with Moreno, his wife of 12 years.

Last month, Kris admitted on television that she and Marquez had a short-lived relationship. She said the affair was already over.

But in a TV interview on Saturday, Moreno said Marquez and Kris were still together.

She even claimed that Kris was inside Marquez's condominium unit in Essensa East Forbes at The Fort in Taguig when she visited him earlier this month. Moreno said she was not allowed to enter Marquez's unit.

The condominium unit is owned by Marquez's older sister, Via Hoffman, who is based in Sydney.

Marquez has said that he continues to give financial support to Moreno, who is now renting a house in Ayala Alabang.

The couple has four children—Yeoj, Win-Win, VJ and Em-Em.

A newspaper reported that Congressman Aquino had ordered a "background check" on Marquez after word got around that the Parañaque mayor and Kris were having a relationship.

In his interview with the INQUIRER yesterday, Aquino said he had this message for his sister: "*Kapatid ko, gumising ka* (Wake up, sister)." ***With a report from PDI Research***

Filipino priest wanted in US for abusing girl

From page A1

There is no statute of limitations for having sexual intercourse with a child under 12. If convicted, Bernabe could face life in prison.

The St. Petersburg Times quoted investigators as saying that Bernabe owned a home in the city but police believed he might be hiding in a small fishing village in the Philippines.

Bernabe, a member of the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan, was a visiting priest who served at the Holy Name Catholic Church in Gulfport and the Holy Family Catholic Church in St. Petersburg in the 1970s and 1980s.

The victim, Melissa M. Price, now a 31-year-old mother, said Bernabe began abusing her in late 1978 when she was 8.

She said Bernabe, a priest at her parochial school in Gulfport, led her to her mother's bedroom and told her he would teach her "a new way to kiss."

Price, who allowed newspapers to use her name, told investigators that the abuse, which escalated into sexual intercourse, took place hundreds of times at her mother's home in Gulfport.

She said Bernabe presided over her grandfather's funeral in 1977 and that he soon became a close family friend, who regularly attended dinner at her home. Price's parents had split then.

Price said the sexual abuse continued after Bernabe moved to St. Petersburg church where she sometimes spent the night.

"I just don't want him to abuse any other children," said Price, who recently formed the first local support group for victims of clergy abuse. "I'm not trying to get money from the Church. I think he should be prosecuted."

Price said Bernabe showered her and her struggling family with money and gifts. She said she received a diamond ring and a Gucci handbag.

According to the St. Petersburg Times, Bernabe took her on a three-week vacation to the Philippines when she was 12.

On her 16th birthday, she said, he gave her a used car but later replaced it with a brand new Volkswagen Cabriolet.

Afraid to resist

Price said she was afraid to resist even though the priest never threatened her.

"A priest is a priest," the St. Petersburg Times quoted her as saying. "That's God. God talks to the priest. In your head, you think that that's what God wants you to do. When a priest does this to you, it gets all mixed up in a kid's head."

Price said she told her mother about the first "full-mouth" kiss. But she said her mother never reported it to the police or stopped Bernabe from seeing her.

Before her 14th birthday, Price said Bernabe promised to retire from priesthood and marry her when she turned 18.

When she was 16, however, Price said she told her boyfriend what was happening between her and the priest.

She said the boyfriend and her mother confronted Bernabe. The abuse stopped, and she saw Bernabe only once thereafter.

In 1989 Bernabe was allowed by his archbishop to enter the US Army as a chaplain. He returned to Florida in 1994, but the diocese of St. Petersburg refused to discuss the circumstances regarding his departure to the Philippines about a year ago.

"I hope for prosecution," The Tampa Tribune quoted Price as saying. "That's why I went to the police. I don't want this man around children. He needs to be held accountable for what he did. Somebody has to start somewhere to let those in charge know this is not going to be swept under the rug."

Price added that "nobody has the right to take a child's innocence like that."

"I'm angry and I'm sad for the child that I was and I guess part of me is doing it for that child. You know, she never had a voice, and she's got one now," she told The Tampa Tribune.

A spokesperson for the Diocese of St. Petersburg said no complaints had been issued against Bernabe when he served there.

Even so, the spokesperson said the diocese was cooperating with the investigation.

The US Catholic Church has been rocked by reports of priests sexually abusing minors.

The Church, however, has apologized for the sexual misconduct of some priests, and has instituted preventive measures. ***With a report from AP***

GAIN/GAINPLUS ADVISORY FROM ABBOTT LABORATORIES

GAINPLUS, NOT GAIN

Affected products were isolated to a single packaging line and **only Gainplus 200gm pouches in carton box were affected**.

LIMITED TO 200gm BOX

The company reiterates that only four batches of 200gm pouches of Gainplus were affected. **All canned products of Gain and Gainplus are not affected.**

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The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration and Abbott Laboratories have concluded that the affected products pose no risk to human health and safe for human consumption.

CONSUMER #1 PRIORITY

While the affected products remain safe for human consumption, Abbott Laboratories was proactive and voluntarily initiated the withdrawal of the products produced on the affected packaging line.

Abbott has taken action to pull out the affected products from wholesalers, distributors and retailers. This is being done as a reflection of Abbott Laboratories' continuing commitment to providing its consumers the highest quality products, and in line with Abbott Laboratories' living up to the trust of its consumers.

ABBOTT CALL CENTER HOTLINE

For additional concerns or further clarification on the matter, Abbott has set up a hotline where consumers can call. The hotline number is at **6890-555** and will be open between the hours of 8 AM and 5 PM, Monday to Friday.

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'Rod poked Nida with umbrella'

From page A1

2001 to 7 a.m. of Nov. 7, 2001, "claimed ignorance of everything that transpired inside the building they were hired to guard."

Wycoco said the three guards initially told Blanca's secretary Elena de la Paz when she came looking for her boss that they saw the actress leave Atlanta Center. When the NBI got their formal statements, they denied any knowledge of Blanca leaving the building.

Medel testimony, 25 witnesses

The NBI mostly relied on the recanted affidavit of Medel to describe how the killing of Blanca, whose real name is Dorothy Jones, happened.

"The retraction was done in public but not under oath. It can be used again," PNP Director Nestorio Gualberto, head of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG),explained during the press conference.

The NBI also relied on the sworn statements of 25 witnesses who provided circumstantial evidence against Strunk.

The witnesses include employees of the Atlanta building in San Juan where Blanca's body was found; Medel's neighbors in Quezon City; a bank employee and a real estate broker, Gualberto said.

"There was this witness on the sale of Blanca's real estate property. There was another witness on the cancellation of the American Express card of one of the suspects. There was a witness who could prove that one of the suspects had secretly maintained a safety deposit box and another witness who could tell that one of the suspects bought a Swiss knife a day before the killing," he said.

The NBI said Medel's confession was corroborated by the witnesses as well as by the physical evidence.

How murder happened

The evidence pointing to Strunk's masterminding the killing was explained by the NBI this way:

"When his sworn statement was taken, Strunk also admitted being at the 6th floor parking lot of the Atlanta Center Building in the early morning of Nov. 7, 2001. He further admitted to have taken a look, but never opened, Nida's car despite the fact that he had in his possession the duplicate key of the said car at that time. Noteworthy to mention is that the time Strunk admitted to have been at the crime scene is likewise the time Nida was attacked based on the findings of our medico-legal officer," the NBI said citing Strunk's affidavit.

"VINDICATED" by the NBI findings, CIDG chief Director Nestorio Gualberto says happily during the press conference on Wednesday with NBI chief Reynaldo Wycoco. ERIK ARAZAS

"The umbrella, which was seen inside the Nissan Vanette (used by Strunk in going to the 6th floor of Atlanta Center), was found inside the car where Nida's body was found dead on Nov. 7, 2001.

"According to Leticia San Jose, she did not see the said umbrella inside the car of Nida on the night of Nov. 5, 2001, when she was visited by Nida in Parañaque," the NBI's complaint read.

"In all of Nida's life, Strunk never bothered to look for, or even asked anybody about Nida. Never at all," the NBI noted.

Based on Medel's recanted affidavit, during the first week of October 2001, Mike Martinez talked to respondent Medel about a certain project.

Martinez allegedly told Medel, "Tantoco needs our participation."

(The tomboyish Candelaria "Dingding" Tantoco had been identified as a close friend of Blanca-Ed.)

In October 2001, while Medel was in Mendoza's house, he allegedly asked Leonilo Gonzaga who was also in the same house if he knew any killer-for-hire because there was a job that had to be done that involved big money *("pera-pera lang")*.

Medel also allegedly asked Major Pates, "Major, *may kilala ka ba na killer na Waray?* (Do you know any killer from Leyte)?"

The Nov. 18, 2001 affidavit of Medel also said that three to four days before the end of October 2001, Medel talked to Mike Martinez at the house of Sally Tan about the "Tantoco Project."

"Mike Martinez gave him instructions to keep his cell phone open on Monday, Nov. 5, 2001, and wait for his instructions," the NBI complaint referred to the DOJ said.

Swiss knife

"On Nov. 5, 2001, between 3 and 4 p.m., Strunk bought a Swiss knife from Handyman Store located at Robinson's Galleria, Ortigas corner Edsa, Mandaluyong City," the NBI said citing the sworn statement of one Julio de Lara dated Feb. 7, 2002.

The NBI has a copy of the receipt for the Swiss knife.

On Nov. 6, 2001, at 8 a.m., Martinez called Medel over his cell phone and gave him the "instruction to wait for the former at the corner of Santolan Road and Edsa, Quezon City, after 5 p.m." This was based on Medel's retracted affidavit.

That same day, Nov. 6, 2001 at about 12:30 p.m., Blanca left her house aboard her car, a Nissan Sentra, Plate No. UBJ 547, and proceeded to the Atlanta Center Building. She left her ID card at the guard assigned at the driveway and parked her car on the 6th floor, at past 12:30 p.m., and then proceeded to her office at the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board on the 32nd floor to review several films.

At 5:08 p.m., she went out of the office and boarded the elevator to go to her car parked on the 6th floor. The elevator operator saw her out at around 5:15 p.m.

"Almost at the same time of the same day, as Nida was leaving her MTRCB office, Strunk picked up Medel (from) where he was waiting for Mike Martinez," the NBI's complaint said.

They allegedly went to Kamayan Restaurant along Edsa in Quezon City where they looked for Martinez. When they could not find him, they went to Virra Mall in Greenhills, passing first through Ortigas Avenue.

"They drove thee times around the Greenhills Commercial Center area as Strunk was looking for a certain *'Mahadera.'* Seeing no one, they decided to go back to Kamayan Restaurant to find out if Mike Martinez was already there. Medel was also hungry," the complaint read.

"At the Kamayan Restaurant, Medel ordered two bottles of beer, as a starter, and later ordered barbecue with rice. Strunk ordered for his meal. At the said restaurant, Strunk made three cell phone calls. Medel was also told by Strunk about his role in the project. Strunk received a cell call and told the other end of the line, 'Okay, we're now moving. Only Jun is with me, Mike failed to come!' After that, they paid the bill and left," the NBI's complaint said.

Again, they proceeded to Virra Mall, drove around twice in the vicinity, then proceeded to the Atlanta Center 6th floor parking area and saw Nida's car at around 10:30 p.m., the NBI's complaint said.

Medel inside Nida's car

"They stayed inside their service car. Then, before 12 midnight, Strunk left the parking area leaving behind Medel inside Nida's car, which was left open by Strunk," the complaint said.

At about 1 a.m. the following day, Nov. 7, a vehicle arrived with Strunk and two women on board. The woman, dressed in a long-sleeved blouse with vertical stripes, hurriedly alighted from the car, followed by Strunk and a "tomboyish-looking woman" and "forced and pushed the woman in long sleeves blouse (sic) at the back of Nida's car."

"Strunk demanded: *'Saan ang papeles* (Where are the documents)?' The woman was saying, *"Ikaw lalaki ka, binubuhay kita, pinalalamun kita!* (You're living off me. I am the one that feeds you),'" the NBI's complaint read.

Strunk then allegedly delivered "three successive frontal kicks on the left side of the woman's body, while the tomboyish woman successively rained fistic blows upon the other woman."

"Afterwards, Strunk ordered Medel, *Tirahin mo Jun* (Hit her).' Medel hit the woman with his right fist. Then stabbed her with his knife," the NBI's complaint read.

Gualberto said Strunk later used his umbrella to jab at Blanca's body to check if she was still alive.

"He could have saved her at that time. If he brought her to a hospital, Nida would have lived," he said.

Wycoco said the umbrella was recovered from Blanca's car.

The NBI complaint stated that after the murder, "they left the parking lot and proceeded to the Virra Mall area. They made good their escape (and were) supposedly never seen by the guards assigned at the building," it said.

"Strunk was seen by the guards in White Plains Subdivision, Quezon City, entering the subdivision at 3 a.m., more or less, of Nov. 7, 2001," based on the sworn affidavit of one witness.

Medel was also seen by the assistant administrator of the Atlanta Center on the 6th floor of the said building about 9:30 a.m. on Nov. 7, 2001.

According to the NBI investigation, three weeks before Blanca was killed, she was so depressed about Strunk's extravagant spending. One transaction that she had allegedly complained about was a large payment she made amounting to P539,000 to American Express for his credit card.

Before that, Blanca allegedly decided to donate to her only daughter, Kaye Torres, all her real property, except the 665-square-meter lot in Baguio City.

These properties included the P30-million White Plains property, the P10-million three-story condominium in Greenhills, San Juan; the 5-hectare agricultural land in San Mateo, Rizal, and a 2,400-square-foot house in the United States valued at $300,000.

"The last straw that broke the camel's back, so to speak (was the) last will and testament prepared by Atty. Emmanuel Tansingko upon instruction of Nida," the NBI complaint said.

But the NBI said that Tansingko could not present the original copy of this last will, based on the lawyer's sworn statement dated Dec. 12, 2001. ***With a report by TJ Burgonio***

Gualberto: I'm 'vindicated'

By TJ Burgonio and Philip Tubeza

"WE WERE right all along."

A jubilant Director Nestorio Gualberto yesterday said. The National Bureau of Investigation has filed charges against the same set of principal suspects as the police for the murder of Nida Blanca.

Gualberto, who is retiring in September, said that he feels "vindicated."

"First of all, at least before I retire it was proven that the evidence we discovered were true," he said.

Except for some additional witnesses, he said that the NBI and the police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, which he heads, had come up with similar findings in their investigation of the murder.

"We have proven that we were right about the suspects," Gualberto said, obviously referring to Blanca's American husband, Rod Lauren Strunk and Philip Medel, among others.

"The only lesson we can get from this is that we should not easily fall for recantations. That was not the first time that that had happened."

The director had come under fire after Medel recanted his statement that Strunk had ordered him to kill Blanca in an emotional outburst at the Department of Justice in November last year, which prompted President Macapagal-Arroyo to refer the case to the NBI.

Pressured to solve the case, the CIDG presented Medel to the media on Nov. 19 last year, saying he had executed an affidavit confessing his involvement in the murder and tagging Strunk as the mastermind.

"We did not know him (Medel) before he sent those surrender feelers," Gualberto said.

Gualberto said that on Nov. 8, a day after Blanca was killed, Medel sent surrender feelers to the authorities.

Gualberto explained that Medel contacted Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo through immigration bureau security consultant Rolly Kintanar.

"One of the pieces of evidence we have is Kintanar's letter to Commissioner Domingo," Gualberto said.

Gov't agent reveals . . .

From page A1

to him for the job, Medel said, that is why he wanted to go to the Bureau of Immigration a week before he was arrested to tell on Blanca's American husband Rod Strunk.

Rolly Kintanar, a confidential immigration agent and former head of the New People's Army, said he was with Medel, Medel's housemate Milo Gonzaga and a certain Lieutenant Gaitano from the Intelligence Services of the Armed Forces of the Philippines a few nights after the Blanca murder when Medel blurted out a confession.

Kintanar said Medel wanted to turn himself over to the BI to testify against Strunk, but that Commissioner Andrea Domingo did not want the agency to get involved in the murder scandal.

Kintanar wrote a confidential memo to Domingo concerning the surrender feelers from Medel, but Domingo instead referred him to then Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza so they could arrange the surrender.

Domingo said the BI had neither jurisdiction over nor the competence to handle a murder case, adding that Medel was a Filipino and had no business reporting to the BI.

"At first, I did not believe him (Medel) because he seemed too outspoken for a hired killer, but his details were accurate. He could not have known those details unless he were actually there," Kintanar said.

Kintanar said a drunk Medel even demonstrated to the group how he killed Blanca.

Medel had asked Gonzaga and a certain Major Patis, who were both living with him in the house in Kamias, Quezon City, to "help in the operation," but the two apparently refused, according to Kintanar.

Kintanar said that he knew Medel because he frequented the house in Kamias, which his cousin, former Isafp chief Gen. Galileo Kintanar, used to rent.

The immigration agent said that Medel and Gonzaga were assets of the Isafp.

Kintanar said Medel surfaced because he wanted to get the reward money for anyone who could give vital information on the Blanca murder.

Mom was planning to dump Rod—Kaye

From page A1

earlier. In fact, she gave Rod not just one chance but many chances to really shape up," Torres noted.

Torres also told the INQUIRER that Blanca tried unsuccessfully to have Strunk's name canceled as co-signatory in her current account with the PS Bank branch on Malcolm Square, Baguio City.

"She tried to cut off Rod's access to her funds in that particular bank account. My mom did that sometime in October, just a few weeks before she was murdered. With that bold move she showed she was serious about getting out of their (22-year) marriage. She finally asserted herself, her being an independent person," Torres said.

But Blanca's instruction was "not implemented by the bank because Strunk's permission was needed before they could delete his name as Nida's co-signatory," according to Harriet Demetriou, Torres' counsel.

Before her trip to Baguio, Blanca instructed her real estate agent to immediately sell the remaining 5 ha of a 10-ha property in San Mateo, Rizal, which originally belonged to the late actress' 88-year-old mother, Inocencia Acueza.

According to Torres and Demetriou, Blanca's "specific instructions to Ellen Madrilejos (of the real estate firm Globe Asiatique) were to send all the proceeds of the sale to Kaye in the US and not to inform Rod about it, because during that time Rod was asking Nida for money supposedly for an ailing relative in California."

Blanca had "on several occasions provided financial support to Strunk's family (in Tracy, California)," according to Kathryn Alba, Blanca's bookkeeper, in a statement to the National Bureau of Investigation.

"It was supposed to be a belated birthday gift to Kaye (who celebrated her birthday last Aug. 31)," said Demetriou, a former chair of the Commission on Elections and presidential legal adviser.

Birthday gift

In 1996, Blanca sold the other half of the property for nearly P15 million, which she used to buy a 2,400-square-foot property in Torrance, Los Angeles, California, "her birthday gift to Kaye," Demetriou said. The US property is worth at least $300,000.

Torres, a senior accountant in an LA manufacturing company, has been based in the US West Coast since 1991.

Yesterday, Estrelita Yu-Marquez, manager of PS Bank-Baguio City, confirmed the disclosures of Torres and Demetriou who, along with Alba, came to see her last June 7 to "check on Nida's bank account," now with a balance of only P8,000.

In a phone interview, Marquez, who claimed to be a fan of the late actress, could not recall the exact date of Blanca's visit.

But she recalled "asking her why she looked sad. At first, she said, "I don't know." And then Nida's exact words were, *"Marami akong iniisip* (I have a lot of things in my mind)."

According to Marquez, the late actress was "originally a client of Philbank, not PS Bank."

Blanca and Strunk had "originally opened the current account many years ago with Philbank (on Magsaysay Avenue) before that bank merged with Asian Bank to form Global Bank. Global was later absorbed by PS Bank, which, by the way, is now owned by Metrobank," Marquez explained.

Actually, Blanca opened the Philbank account to "receive all income from her Baguio property," Demetriou said.

The 665-square-meter property is located in the South Drive area (near Camp John Hay) where real estate can fetch at least P20,000 per square meter.

Sometime in 1973, Blanca made a "townsite application (for residence)" for that piece of public land with the then Ministry of Natural Resources which owned the property.

Last month, Torres "traveled to Baguio to signify in writing before (what is now) the Department of Environment and Natural Resources her intention to take over her mom's application for titling of the subject piece of real estate," Demetriou said.

"Kaye is personally pursuing the titling application," she added.

Aside from the Baguio and San Mateo, Rizal, properties, the late actress' other assets included her house which sits on a 650-square-meter lot in White Plains, Quezon City (valued at P30 million); and a unit at Midland Condominium in Greenhills, San Juan (valued at P10 million).

Jobless

In a Nov. 10, 2001 statement, which Strunk issued when questioned by the Philippine National Police following the murder of his wife, he said he was "not engaged in any actual business."

Blanca's unemployed husband said he was "receiving a US pension, some rentals/income from the house in Baguio and the condominium in San Juan, Metro Manila, which are all in the name of Dorothy Jones." Which was Blanca's real name.

The 62-year-old Strunk, however, failed to tell the NBI that he received a portion of Blanca's movie talent fees.

In a sworn statement, Alba told the NBI: *"Si Nida ay nagbabahagi kay Rod ng 15 percent sa bawat kita niya sa pelikula. Siya rin ang namimili halos lahat ng mga personal na pangangailangan ng kanyang asawa. May mga transaksyon si Rod na kung saan pumapasok sa eksena si Nida dahil si Rod ay kinapos sa pera o dahil sa hindi niya kayang tuparin ang kanyang obligasyon sa mga taong kanyang maaring pinagkautangan. Dati ay may negosyo si Rod na ang pangalan ay Dartmart Inc. na nalugi. Si Nida rin ang nagdadagdag ng kapital at tuluyan na itong nagsara noong 1987. Si Nida rin ang nagpapadala ng pinansyal na suporta sa pamilya ni Rod sa America tuwing mangangailangan doon. Si Nida rin ang nagpo-produce ng mini-concert ni Rod na hindi nag-materialize* (Nida shared with Rod 15 percent of every film she made. She also bought practically every personal need of her husband. Rod had business transactions where Nida had to intervene as he would ran out of money or he couldn't pay his loans. He used to have a business called Dartmart Inc. but it went under. It was Nida who increased its capitalization but it finally closed down in 1987. Nida also sent financial support to Rod's family in America every time they needed it. Nida also produced Rod's mini-concert which did not materialized)."

Insurance

Also according to Blanca's bookkeeper, the actress had Strunk insured by Philamlife, Blue Cross and CocoPlan.

Strunk, incidentally, is one of the beneficiaries of Blanca's life insurance policy with Philamlife. The other beneficiaries are Torres, Acueza and Ditas dela Paz, a niece of the late actress.

Under Blanca's BF Lifeman policy, the beneficiaries are Torres, Acueza and James Thomas Jones, the late actress' half brother.

Both insurance policies are worth "less than P500,000."

Uncontrolled spending

In a Dec. 7, 2001 statement, Torres told the NBI she talked to her mother "three weeks before she died. She sounded depressed because of the cancer illness of her friend Dr. Milagros "Bong" Erana (whose screen name was Nenita Vidal and who later died of the same ailment) and because of Rod Strunk's uncontrolled spending habits."

"She told me that she was fed up with his extravagant ways and that she already gave him an ultimatum to change or reform," Torres said.

Blanca "really cared about (Strunk) but look at what he did to her during the 22 years they were together," she said.

Asked by the NBI how she saw Strunk as "husband to your mom," Torres described the former Hollywood actor and recording artist as a "selfish man who thought mainly of himself, never cared much about my mom and her hard work."

"I saw him also to be irresponsible, extremely lazy, extravagant and very fond of drinking. He always asked money from my mom for everything he needed for himself. There was hardly any instance when he paid for anything for my mom. He was inconsiderate especially with personal and household expenses. Everybody would do his or her share in helping my mom by being economical around the house, except him. He enjoys the luxury and comfort of staying home without caring about household budget," Torres disclosed.

In pajamas all day

When interviewed by the INQUIRER in their White Plains, Quezon City residence, Torres emphasized Strunk "solely relied on my mom for full financial support and everybody here knows that."

Blanca's trusted aide of 45 years, Elena dela Paz, agreed.

Strunk, they all said, "spent most of his time at home in his pajamas. He's one person who sleeps during the day and stays awake during the night. That's his steady routine."

FOUR DIGIT

Luzon 4 0 3 4
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Vis / Min 0 6 7 4

MEGALOTTO

35 29 43 27 7 6

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(in exact order)

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ◎ Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

New coach for karatekas

THE PHILIPPINE Karatedo Federation has hired an Italian coach to boost its medal bid in the Asian Games in Busan this September. The coach, former Italian karate mainstay Gueseppe Romano, arrived Sunday. He started training the national karatedo kumite team members the following day at the Philsports gym in Pasig City.

Archers seek solo lead vs Warriors

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
10 a.m.—Adamson vs NU (Jrs)
11:45 a.m.—La Salle vs UE (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Adamson vs NU (Srs)
4 p.m.—La Salle vs UE (Srs)

By Dennis Eroa

AFTER A masterful start, La Salle resumes its "Gimme Five" drive when it battles dangerous University of the East today in the UAAP basketball tournament at Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Beating the Red Warriors for the solo lead, however, isn't going to be a stroll for the Green Archers. Last year, the Recto-dribblers handed the Green Archers their worst loss, 79-58, at the Loyola Gym.

"Of course, we remember that setback and I remain wary of UE," said La Salle mentor Franz Pumaren.

The Green Archers evened up matters with the Warriors in the second round and went on to tie University of Santo Tomas' "four peat."

CARDONA

The La Salle-UE tiff is set at 4 p.m., after the 2 p.m. clash between Adamson and NU.

La Salle debuted with a smashing 85-71 win over Far Eastern University last Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum. UE bowed to University of the Philippines, 59-54, last Saturday.

Adamson coach Luigi Trillo is seeking the all-important victory which may lead to bigger things for the Falcons.

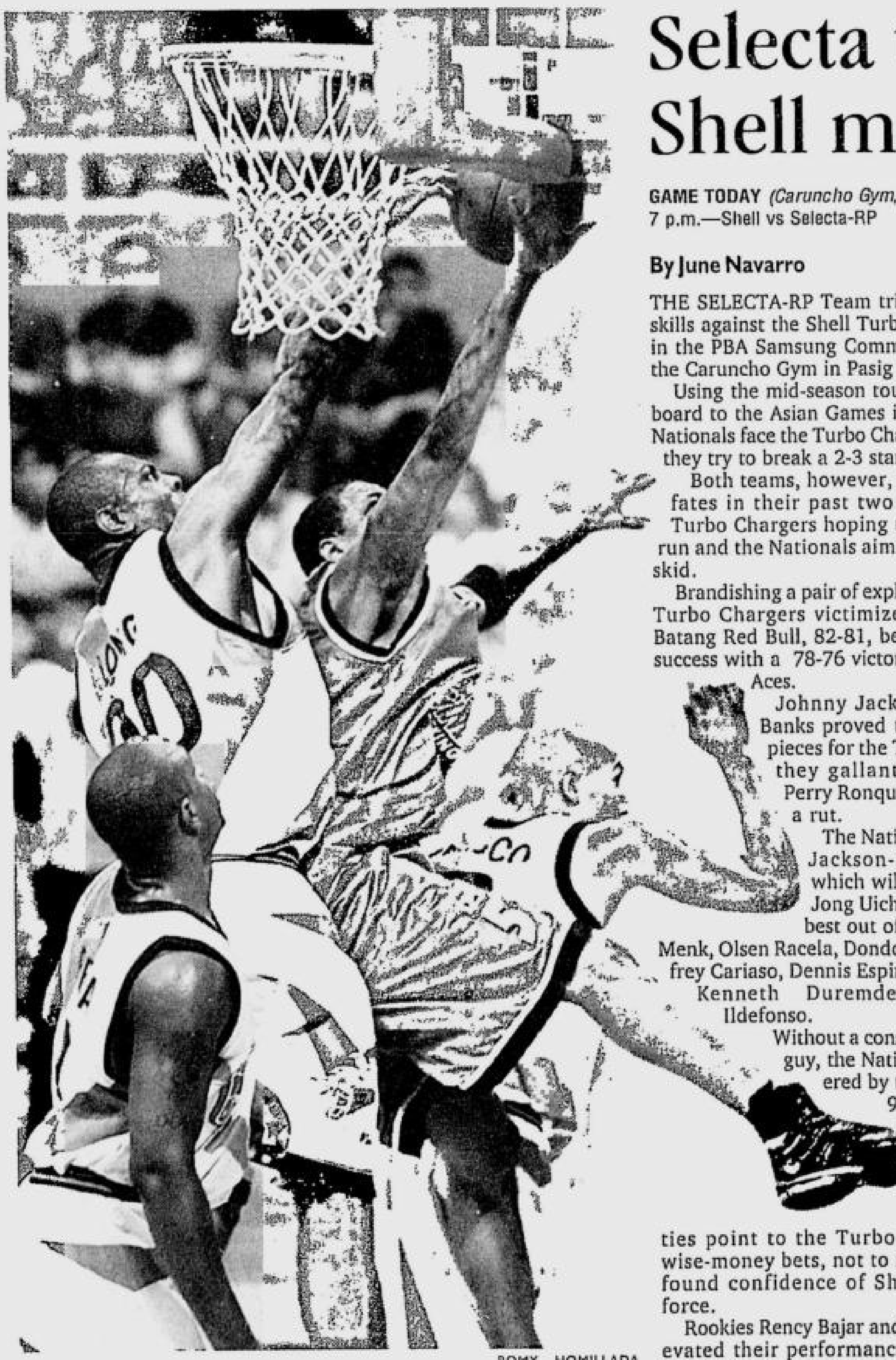
The Falcons were routed by University of Santo Tomas Tigers, 74-61, last Sunday. It was Trillo's 29th straight loss since taking over as Adamson mentor two years ago.

Without legitimate slotmen, both NU and Adamson will pin their hopes on their wingers and backcourtmen.

While UE delights in a fast and furious game, La Salle stands out with its clinical style of play. The Green Archers like to exploit the weaknesses of their foes and can easily shift from a man-to-man to a full-court, pressing defense.

Mark Cardona, last year's rookie of the year, is hard to check with his unorthodox shots, while Mike Cortez is steadily playing to his standards. Big men Adonis Sta. Maria, Manny Ramos and Mike Gavino also debuted impressively same with Joseph Yeo, while rookie playmaker Tyrone Tang is still adjusting to his new role as Cortez's reliever.

UE is leaning on Paul Artadi and Ronald Tubid. James Yap needs to find his range to boost the Warriors' firepower, while prized find Rommel Canaleta, a 6-foot-6 Kobe Bryant lookalike, will man the boards.



ROMY HOMILLADA

GINEBRA import Isaac Spencer (5) is blocked by San Miguel Beer's Art Long during their game Tuesday night. Also shown are SMB's Dorian Pena (left) and Nick Belasco. The Beermen triumphed, 93-82.

Selecta tests Shell mettle

GAME TODAY *(Caruncho Gym, Pasig City)*
7 p.m.—Shell vs Selecta-RP

By June Navarro

THE SELECTA-RP Team tries to sharpen its skills against the Shell Turbo Chargers today in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the Caruncho Gym in Pasig City.

Using the mid-season tourney as a springboard to the Asian Games in September, the Nationals face the Turbo Chargers at 7 p.m. as they try to break a 2-3 standoff.

Both teams, however, have contrasting fates in their past two games with the Turbo Chargers hoping to maintain their run and the Nationals aiming to check their skid.

Brandishing a pair of explosive imports, the Turbo Chargers victimized league-leader Batang Red Bull, 82-81, before fueling their success with a 78-76 victory over the Alaska Aces.

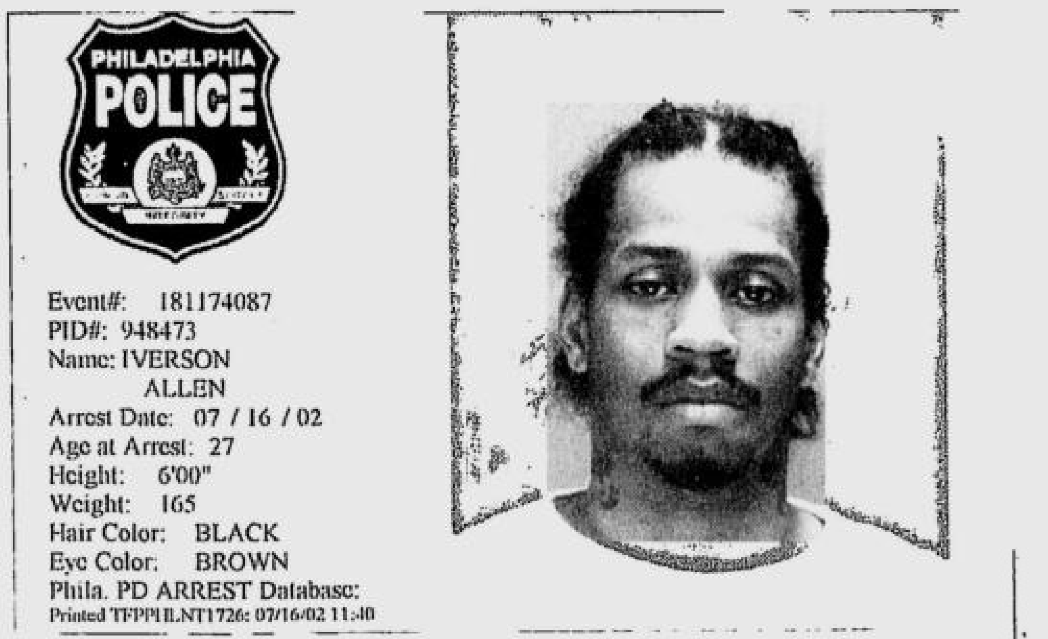
Johnny Jackson and George Banks proved to be the missing pieces for the Turbo Chargers as they gallantly pulled coach Perry Ronquillo's wards out of a rut.

The Nationals don't have a Jackson-Banks combo, which will force headcoach Jong Uichico to squeeze the best out of Asi Taulava, Eric Menk, Olsen Racela, Dondon Hontiveros, Jeffrey Cariaso, Dennis Espino, Rudy Hatfield, Kenneth Duremdes and Danny Ildefonso.

Without a consistent take-charge guy, the Nationals were smothered by the FedEx Express, 94-87, and the Sta. Lucia Realtors, 66-62, recently.

These contrasting realities point to the Turbo Chargers as the wise-money bets, not to mention the newfound confidence of Shell's entire local force.

Rookies Rency Bajar and Chris Calaguio elevated their performances a notch higher while Gerry Esplana, Mike Hrabak, Jun Marzan and Tony Dela Cruz renewed their interest in leading the Turbo Chargers back to the playoffs.



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Name: IVERSON
ALLEN
Arrest Date: 07 / 16 / 02
Age at Arrest: 27
Height: 6'00"
Weight: 165
Hair Color: BLACK
Eye Color: BROWN
Phila. PD ARREST Database:
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PHILADELPHIA
POLICE

THE July 16, 2002 booking photo of Iverson provided by the Philadelphia Police Department. AP

Allen arraigned, released on bond after 11 hours

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson was arraigned Tuesday on charges he stormed into a cousin's apartment with a gun and threatened two men while looking for his wife. He was released on $10,000 bond after 11 hours in custody.

Wearing a white T-shirt, a haggard-looking Iverson appeared in court via closed-circuit TV as he sat in a detention block at police headquarters.

No plea was entered for the 76ers' star guard, although Iverson's lawyer told the court his client would plead innocent.

The brief hearing came after a long day behind bars for Iverson, who surrendered about 5:30 a.m. to face charges of assault, making threats and carrying a gun without a license.

The charges carry a maximum sentence of more than 50 years, although lawyers not involved in the case said he is unlikely to serve jail time even if convicted.

He appeared on screen for about three minutes and did not speak, except to answer "yes" to acknowledge his presence when called on by bail commissioner Abraham Polokoff.

Iverson was whisked away from police headquarters minutes after Polokoff ordered him released on unsecured bond pending a July 22 court appearance. He wasn't required to post any money, but would be liable for the cash if he failed to appear in court. The court set no restrictions on his movements while he awaits trial.

"The plea Mr. Iverson [will enter] is a very strong and definite 'not guilty.' I want everybody to hear that loud and clear," said his attorney, Richard Sprague.

Iverson left his $2.4 million home in suburban Philadelphia before dawn in a convoy of sport utility vehicles and a minivan. The tempestuous guard had been confined there since Thursday.

His arrest created a circus atmosphere outside headquarters. Hordes of reporters and photographers awaited the latest news, fans gathered to show support, children sold lemonade and an outlandish group of radio-station listeners chanted "Free A.I.! Free A.I.!" through a bullhorn.

While Iverson was not available for comment, his mother, Ann, took the occasion to defend her famous son.

She arrived at the home about 11:30 p.m. Monday with videotapes of popular comedies, including Eddie Murphy's Delirious and various Richard Pryor movies. She said she wanted to make her son laugh. ***AP***

Iverson faces sanction no matter court outcome

PHILADELPHIA—Even if he never spends another minute in jail, Allen Iverson will have to answer to the NBA.

The Philadelphia 76ers' star guard was arraigned Tuesday on charges that he stormed into a cousin's apartment with a gun and threatened two men while looking for his wife earlier this month. He was released on $10,000 bond.

Though the charges against the 27-year-old, three-time All-Star carry a maximum sentence of more than 50 years, lawyers not involved in the case said Iverson is unlikely to serve jail time even if convicted.

No matter the outcome in court, Iverson faces possible action from NBA commissioner David Stern, who has suspended him in the past.

"He will talk to our security officers," league spokesman Tim Frank said, adding a conversation with Iverson could take place even before his case is resolved.

Under the NBA's collective bargaining agreement, Iverson would be automatically suspended for a minimum of 10 games if convicted of a "violent felony." Stern could also take more drastic action.

Stern has the authority to fine or suspend the mercurial star even if the charges are dropped, based on a standard conduct clause in players' contracts.

New York Knicks guard Latrell Sprewell was suspended for the final 68 games of the 1997-98 season for choking coach P.J. Carlesimo during an altercation at practice when both were with the Golden State Warriors. ***AP***

Local NBA coverage gets boost

THE NATIONAL Basketball Association and Solar Entertainment Corp. have expanded their television agreement, bringing daily NBA programming to fans in the Philippines.

The new agreement, beginning with the 2002-2003 NBA season, calls for Solar Entertainment to air more than six hours of NBA programming each day, including, NBA TV games and a co-produced show.

As part of the new deal, Solar Sports Network, a brand-new 24-hour sports channel, will air a six-hour block of NBA TV programming seven days a week, 52 weeks a year. NBA TV will include live games, daily highlights and classic NBA programs.

A leading free over-the-air TV channel that is seen nationwide in the Philippines will broadcast weekly NBA programming, including NBA games and "NBA Jam."

The station will air two games a week during the regular season and playoffs. Solar Entertainment will enhance the NBA programming with local relevance on three fronts: first, NBA games will be hosted by Filipino basketball experts to provide local expertise and flavor to the NBA action. Additionally Solar Entertainment will provide a weekly half-our version of "NBA Jam."

Lastly, Solar Entertainment will provide on-site coverage of NBA All-Star and the NBA Finals, with Filipino commentators calling the games live.

Canada nips MBA

THE METROPOLITAN Basketball Association selection's great comeback effort went for naught as it yielded to Canada's University of Alberta, 83-82, Tuesday night in the 25th Jones Cup at the Taipei Physical Education College Gym in Taiwan.

The MBA selection is locked in a crucial battle with defending champion Taiwan at presstime.

After three straight games, the MBA selection takes a rest today before facing South Korea's Military Team (1-2) at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow. *Roy Luarca*

St. Benilde subdues Mapua for win No. 3

GAMES TOMORROW
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—PCU vs JRU (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—SBC vs SSC-R (srs/jrs)

By June Navarro

UNBEATEN College of St. Benilde survived a bench-emptying incident and chalked up its third straight win at the expense of the Mapua Cardinals, 64-60, yesterday at the resumption of the NCAA basketball wars at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Sophomore playmaker Jeffrey Martin lost his cool and hit rookie Paolo Obeta on the head in retaliation to an elbow thrown by the latter with 49 ticks left in the third quarter.

It triggered a pandemonium on the floor as both teams stormed onto the court and went into fighting mode, incurring a couple of technicals from game officials.

Martin and Obeta were thrown out of the game along with Benilde's Alex Magpayo and rookie Joferson Gonzales. Magpayo and Gonzales were ejected for taking a fighting stance.

Letran College escaped with a resounding 76-68 triumph over University of Perpetual Help-Rizal in the other seniors tussle

ERNIE SARMIENTO

VOLLEYBALL GRAND PRIX

Coaches (from left) Marco Motta (Brazil), Hee Wan Lee (Germany), Masahiro Yoshikawa (Japan) and Nikolai Karpol (Russia) hold the official ball with organizer Noli Eala (third from left) and Pava president Louie Gepuela during yesterday's press conference of the 2002 World Volleyball Grand Prix Manila leg at the Edsa Shangri-La.

Filipino pool artists advance in Cardiff meet

CARDIFF, Wales—Filipino bets, led by Antonio Lining and Francisco "Django" Bustamante, showed their prowess anew Tuesday night, subduing their rivals and barging into the last 64 of the 2002 World Pool Championship at the Cardiff International Arena here.

Lining posted 5-1 victories over Richard Jones and Alain Martel to emerge top qualifier in Group 8 and earn the eighth seeding, while Bustamante became the ninth seed after beating David Alcaide, 5-0, and Williams Boon Lay Ang, 5-2, in Group 7.

Also making it to the knockout stages of the $300,000 (P15 million) tournament were Rodolfo "Boy" Luat, Warren Kiamco, Dennis Orcullo and Ramil Gallego. Efren "Bata" Reyes and Lee Van Corteza advanced as early as Monday.

Reyes yielded to Ernesto Dominguez, 5-3, and settled for 10 points in Group 5, while Corteza prevailed over Sin-Young Park, 5-4, for 12 points in Group 13.

Only Leonardo Andam failed to make the cut among the Filipinos as he was beaten by Luat, 5-2, and wound up with just six points in Group 12. Luat finished with 10 points.

Kiamco split his matches with Geoff Dunn (5-3) and Vangelis Veltas (4-5) in Group 4; Orcullo swamped Evgenji Statev (5-1) and Tommy Donlon (5-0) in Group 10; while Gallego recovered from a 5-0 loss to Kim Davenport by whipping Young Hwa jeong, 5-2, in Group 4.

Isabela-born Alex Pagulayan, now playing for Canada, also qualified following victories over Andy Richardson (5-4) and Greg Jenkins (5-2) in Group 14.

Lining meets No. 57 Nick Van Den Berg, while Bustamante faces No. 56 Imran Majid in the race-to-9 winner breaks knockout matches Thursday.

Other matches pit Pagulayan, ranked 10th, against No. 55 Darryl Peach; Corteza (11th) against Kun-Chang Huang (54th), Gallego (15th) against Jim Rempe (50th), Reyes (17th) against Radoslaw Babica (48th) and Luat against snooker legend Steve Davis (36th).

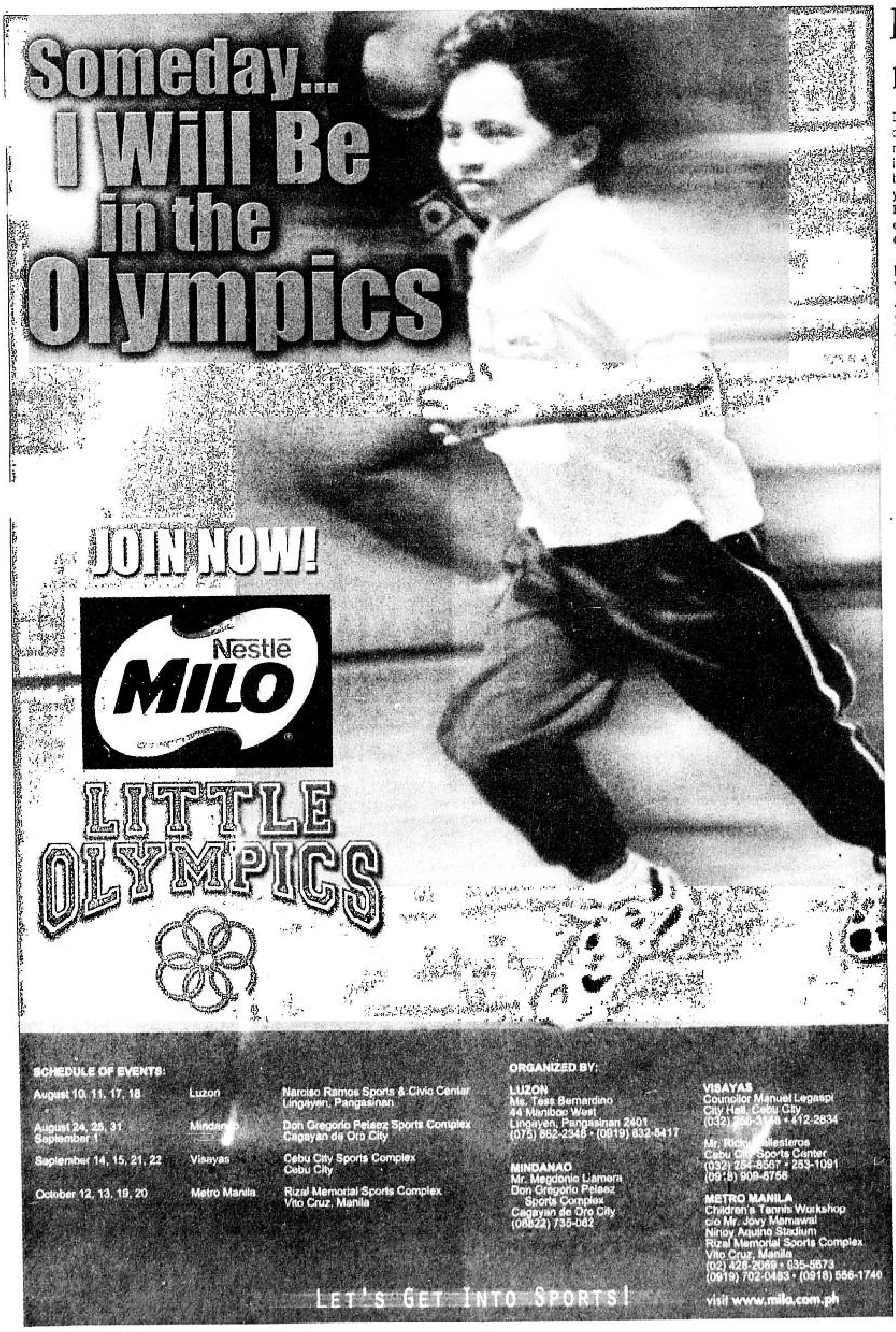
Orcullo (16th) drew the toughest assignment in Ralf Souquet (49th), last year's losing finalist.

Defending champion Mika Immonen (2nd) will tackle Shannon Daulton (63rd), while top qualifier Oliver Ortmann tangles with Steve Knight (64th).

The qualifiers are assured of $1,500 (P75,000) each.

Roy Luarca

CORTEZA: 11th seed.



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August 10, 11, 17, 18 Luzon Narciso Ramos Sports & Civic Center, Lingayen, Pangasinan
August 24, 25, 31, September 1 Mindanao Don Gregorio Pelaez Sports Complex, Cagayan de Oro City
September 14, 15, 21, 22 Visayas Cebu City Sports Complex, Cebu City
October 12, 13, 19, 20 Metro Manila Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, Vito Cruz, Manila

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JUNIOR WORLD

RP golfer 4 shots up

By Jong Arcano

SAN DIEGO—Eight-year-old Dottie Ardina carried the fight for a Philippine delegation looking to end a three-year victory spell as she grabbed a hefty four-stroke lead in her division at the start Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila) of the Callaway Junior World golf championships here.

The afternoon chill unable to affect her fiery play, Ardina simply put herself a cut above the rest with a consistent round of two-over-par 56 and was actually the only player who broke 60 at the compact Presidio Hills layout.

Danielle Ordonez Ruiz of Colombia and Kelly Oridie of Hawaii were tied for second with similar 60s while Ardina's compatriot, Christina Potenciano, scored a 64 and was tied for 10th.

Ardina, daughter of a teaching pro at a small range in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, was the first RP entry in three years since Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin (who won in 1998) to lead her event.

And with her four-shot lead, Ardina may just relive the glory days for a country with a long winning tradition here including back-to-back winner of the 15-17 years (Carito Villaroman) whose still existing 15-under-par record was never broken by Tiger Woods in his jungolf prime.

Except for RG Medestomas, Mia Piccio and Miko Alejandro, the rest of the 24-player RP contingent sponsored by Philippine Airlines, adidas Taylor Made and Pisanti struggled in the wake of superior opposition.

Medestomas and Piccio were in good positions to make the cut in the 11-12 years class at Singing Hills Pine Glen with a 61 and 63, respectively. Alejandro was the best placed RP bet in 13-14 years after a 75 marred by so many missed short putts.

Jayvie Agojo, the spearhead of the contingent, wasted a lot of strokes on the greens and checked in with a 77 for a share of the lead in the girls 15-17 years.

"Hopefully, Dottie will remain focused and give us the win we've waited for quite a while now. We will all be praying for her success," said Merwin Mediana, president of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines.

The Philippine scores:

Class A: Boys (B. Garcia 81, M. Lamela 82, K. Ugarte 84); Girls (J. Agojo 77, M. Salvio 78);

Class B: Boys (Miko Alejandro 75, J. Tambunting 77, L. Negrido 78); Girls (L. de Villa 75, G. Handog 82)

Class C: Boys (M. Yee 64, M. Camitoc 64, A. Guy 66) Girls (K. Briones 68, M. Salvio 77)

Class D: Boys (RG Medestomas 61, J. Carlos 65); Girls (M. Piccio 63, M. Exconde 65)

Class E: Boys (JR Gonzales 62, M. Tabuena 64); Girls (D. Ardina 56, C. Potenciano 64)

Morfe, Abratique whip nat'l taekwondo foes

DAX Morfe and Jon Jon Abratique displayed the forms that made them members of the national team, lording it over their respective fields to banner the senior men's gold winners yesterday in the Samsung Best of the Best national taekwondo championships at the Glorietta Activity Center.

Morfe, a 25-year-old veteran who bagged a bronze each in last year's World Cup in Vietnam and Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur, repulsed Philippine Navy's Kenneth Santos, 5-3, to capture the middle/heavyweight crown.

Later in the day, Abratique, the 1998 Asian Games bronze medalist and Brunei SEAG silver winner, pulverized Far Eastern University's Clifford Maalay, 8-4, to capture the bantamweight gold medal.

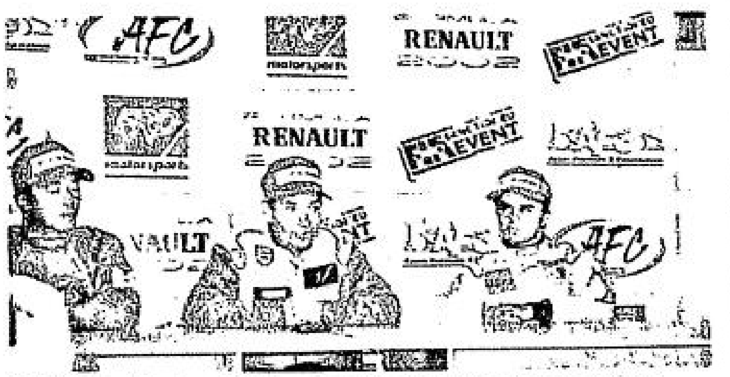
Taekwondo Blackbelt Sorority's Eufreshnee Catalan bested Pearl Angelu Echauz, 2-1, for the senior women's bantam gold, even as 14-year-old Antoinette Rivero, a member of the national pool, became the youngest champion when she defeated BSU's Angel Borja by disqualification.

The 5-foot-6 Rivero was ahead, 3-0, when Borja was disqualified for committing six infractions.

Finweight Angelito Ong, flyweight Anthony Ong, featherweight RV Valenzuela, lightweight Igoy Ducay and welterweight Ismael Bermudez also shared the spotlight after winning in their respective divisions in the tourney organized by IMG and the Philippine Taekwondo Association.

Winning in the women's competition in the event sponsored by Samsung and supported by Accel and 103.5 K Lite were Criselda Roxas in lightweight, Josephine Strachan in welterweight and Mary Ann Briones in middle/heavy.

Marc Anthony Reyes



CHAN, Goddard and Descombes (from left) answer questions during the AFC's recent press conference.

Asian F3 Challenge: 3-way battle looms

A THREE-WAY battle between Englishman Mark Goddard, Frenchman Philippe Descombes and Hong Kong's Paul Chan looms when the 2002 Asian Formula Challenge resumes at the Zhuhai International Circuit in China's Guangdong Province on July 21.

The Asian Formula Challenge is Asia's first international championship for Formula 3 and Formula Renault. It is organized by the Asian Formula 3 (AF3), Formula Racing Development and the Malaysian Motor Sports Club.

Goddard, driving for Castrol Team Goddard, is looking to extend his lead in the Asian Formula 3 Championship as his closest rival, Silverio of Tom's Zed, will be absent from the track owing to a commitment to drive for his team in the Philippine National Touring Car Championship, which is also slated for this weekend.

FRD Harbour View's Descombes, meanwhile, has made alterations to his car based on information gained during the last rounds and intends to thwart Goddard's designs, while the perpetually calm and collected Chan of Vertex Motorsports is shaping up as the series' dark horse and may yet foil everyone else's bid for first place.

Also seeing action in the fourth leg of the Challenge are Filipinos Richard Joson of Denso of JF3 Racing, Pepon Marave of the Shell Racing Team and JP Tuason of TRP Team Oxygen.

Waiting to strike are Hong Kong's Jonathan Chan of Vertex Motorsports, the FRD duo of Steven Chau and David Louie, and Korean Dong Wook Lee of E-Rain Racing. Expected to make their debut in the Asian Formula 3 Championship are Filipino Roland Hermoso of Team Petron and touring car champion Henry Lee Jr. of Hong Kong.

RECORD BREAKER
Svetlana Feofanova of Russia raises her arm in delight after winning the pole vault at the DN-Galan athletics gala in Stockholm, Sweden, on Tuesday. Feofanova broke the women's European pole vault record at 4.78 meters. AP

POC okays 164 athletes

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee executive board yesterday approved the inclusion of 164 national athletes to the Busan Asian Games roster even as 30 more aspirants are knocking on the door pending the results of their qualifying events.

Aside from the athletes in the waiting list, men's baseball and men's and women's tennis teams are vying for slots despite the fact that they didn't make the criteria set by the Asiad Task Force.

POC secretary general Romy Ribaño said the board will have to tackle national sports associations which are still making an appeal to join the delegation through the backdoor.

But final decision will be made when the POC general assembly convenes on July 31 for its final meeting before Team Philippines disembarks for the Busan Games set for Sept. 29 to Oct. 14.

Ribaño earlier declared that the POC may maximize the 200 slots provided for the athletes, short of saying that they may consider athletes who didn't make the standard but carry strong chance of winning.

The bulk of the contingent comes from the basketball and softball teams. Among the individual events, track and field has the most slots with 18 although athletics chief Go Teng Kok said he will still evaluate the performance of his wards in the Asian Championships in Sri Lanka early next month.

Task Force official Tats Suzara said the athletes have already undergone physical and psychological examinations and that they all passed the tests with flying colors.

Suzara added that the Task Force is already wrapping up its functions as the athletes are already being measured for their competition and parade uniforms.

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Spaniard puzzles Lance

BORDEAUX, France—Lance Armstrong wants to know what all the fuss is about.

Spain's Igor Gonzalez Galdeano is the talk of the Tour de France thanks to his grip on the overall leader's yellow jersey, and his 26-second advantage over three-time champion Armstrong.

And now, to the Texan's surprise, Gonzalez Galdeano is being tipped as his next big rival.

"I never feel safe, but I wonder sometimes where such confidence comes from, when there's been no precedent," Armstrong said Tuesday. "Or rather, where the buzz comes from."

While undeniably talented, Gonzalez Galdeano didn't come close to scaring Armstrong in the Tour's key mountain stages last year.

He lost 4 minutes and 3 seconds on the U.S. Postal Service rider in the opening mountain stretch from Aix-Les-Bains to L'Alpe d'Huez. By the end of the Tour, he trailed by 13:28. *AP*

Pasay 5-cock derby today

A FESTIVE atmosphere is anticipated in today's Pasay City Cockpit 15th Anniversary 5-Cock Derby which will start at 9 a.m.

More than 150 fights are on tap in the event sponsored by Casino Filipino-Parañaque, Sagupaan High-Action ready mix maintenance feeds and Sagupaan Hammer.

"We want to make sure that everybody will be happy, that's why all the participants and paying patrons will receive anniversary gifts. It's our way of extending our gratitude to all for supporting us the whole year round," pit managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano said.

Every paying patron will receive P200 worth of casino chips and valuable gifts from PCC management.

Pasay City cockpit, recognized as the busiest cockpit in Metro Manila, boasts about 200 cockhouses, big parking areas, music lounge for participants, in-house restaurants, OTBA and classy rest rooms similar to that of a five-star hotel.

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Race 5—1. Golden Quest 2. Viva Rosa 3. Silent Wind 4. Breakaway Artist 5. Action Mark
Race 6—1. Brute Force 2. Mister Cool 3. Schumacher
Race 7—1. Patikim 2. Kay Gee Em Ey/Tumataginting 3. Powerhouse 4. Red Bells 5. Brazen Truth
Race 8—1. Hercules 2. Masagana 3. Boy from Brazil 4. Lady Victoria
Race 9—1. Hitman 2. Harvesting Game 3. Green Leaves 4. Privately Owned 5. Precious Time 6. Run Doding Fly

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: PGA Greater Milwaukee Open, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

131st British Open Championship, First Round at 8 p.m. on ESPN

POOL: World Professional Pool Championships 2002, Day 5, 1st Session at 10:30 a.m., 2nd Session at 5:30 p.m. on ESPN, Day 6, 1st Session at 9 p.m. on Star Sports

CYCLING: Tour De France 2002 Highlights, Stage #10 at 12:30 p.m. (r – 5 p.m.) on ESPN

BASEBALL: Wednesday Night Baseball at 7 a.m. and 1 p.m. on ESPN

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1994, Maricris Fernandez beat Shin Hyun-A, 6-3, 1-6, 7-5, to win top honors in the Philippine Columbian Association (PCA) Open tennis championships at the PCA courts. Also today in 1987, Juan Miguel Rocha shot a one under par 55 to bag the boys' 10-and-under division title in the World Junior Golf Championship in Torrey Pines, San Diego, California.

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Please help flood victims

The Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), a member of the Corporate Network for Disaster Response, is appealing to all kind-hearted individuals to donate relief goods to the 10,000 displaced residents of Manila, Quezon City, Makati, Caloocan, Valenzuela, Malabon, Marikina, San Juan and Taguig. PBSP Executive Director Gil T. Salazar said bottled drinking water, medicine, instant food products, rice, powdered coffee and milk are greatly needed in 38 evacuation centers. Call Cora Chavez at 527-7741 to 50 loc. 108 and 527-3740 (telefax).

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
METRO
Editor Louie C. Camino

Caloy Sanchez cremated today

THE BODY of former PDI police photographer Carlos "Caloy" Sanchez will be cremated at 2 p.m. today at the Chinese Cemetery New Crematory on Rizal Avenue Ext., Manila. His ashes will be brought later to the Pope Pius XII Catholic Center on U.N. Avenue, Manila for the 6 p.m. Mass and blessing tonight. Sanchez, an unassuming and dedicated mediaman, passed away after a lingering illness on Saturday. He was first confined at the Quezon Institute and later at the Philippine General Hospital.

Cops helpless vs suspects

Body of young rape-slay victim found in creek

By Nelson Flores

POLICE authorities were rendered helpless after witnesses yesterday recanted their statements linking the suspects in the week-old rape-slay of a 16-year-old girl in Taytay, Rizal.

SPO1 Dario Miranda, Taytay municipal police investigator, said they were forced to free 22-year-old Lamberto Latoja and Jessi Castor alias "Bok Jones," the principal suspects in the rape-slaying of Ana Mia Parales.

Miranda said the suspects were arrested by Binangonan, Rizal police on the day the victim's body was found after witnesses implicated them in her death.

Miranda said the witnesses initially told Binangonan police investigators that they saw the victim with Latoja and Castro, both tricyle drivers, on the last day she was seen alive.

However, the same witnesses later recanted their statements while being interrogated at the Taytay municipal police headquarters.

The same witnesses failed to identify the suspects in a recent police line.

"We have no choice but to release them (the suspect) otherwise we will get into trouble before the Commission on Human Rights for illegal detention," Miranda explained.

Miranda added that they will continue to investigate the case.

The half-naked body of Parales, which bore four stab wounds, was fished out by local fishermen during a heavy downpour from a creek at Baton Town, Manggahan Floodway, Taytay last July 9. A broken kitchen knife was still embedded in the victim's neck.

The victim, said to be a poor student in a Catholic school, was a resident of San Carlos Heights, Binangonan.

SPO4 Reynaldo Gonzaga, Binangonan police chief investigator, said that after his arrest, Latoja had told investigators that the knife found embedded in Parale's body belonged to Castro.

Latoja later retracted his testimony at the Taytay municipal police station. He also denied any knowledge about the incident.

Gonzaga explained that fear had obviously caused Latoja and the witnesses to retract their earlier statements.

He said Latoja and the residents of San Carlos Heights are apparently afraid of Castro.

As this developed, there came reports that the suspects, said to be drug dependents, were eyeing another young girl in a nearby community.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Comelec well armed to sue 200 teachers /A24
- GMA gives nod to 'color-coding' review /A24

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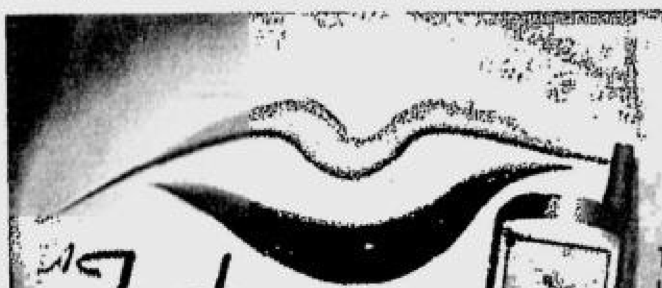

TOUCH MOBILE IS GIVING AWAY P100,000 IN A TOUCH OF MYSTERY

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1. Register by texting "TOUCH<space> REG<space>YOUR NAME<space>ADDRESS" then send to 2336.
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4. Deadline for each week's entry is every Thursday 12mn.

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Comelec well armed to sue 200 teachers

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE COMMISSION on Elections on Tuesday said it has the goods to prosecute around 200 teachers who boycotted and nearly paralyzed elections in Parañaque City last Monday.

Lawyer Calixtro Ramos, the city's election officer, said he has documents that would prove that a prominent politician tried to influence the elections when he "handpicked" teachers for the Board of Election Tellers (BET).

"My decision to change the composition of the BET was legal and justified," Ramos told the Inquirer. "I will present all documents in the proper forum."

Crispulo Santos, president of the Union Parañaque Public School Teachers and Employees Association, said the affected teachers would seek an audience with Education Secretary Raul Roco to fend off the Comelec threat.

"We didn't do anything wrong, so Secretary Roco should defend us," Santos said. "It's the transfer of teachers that was illegal."

Santos said he and the other teachers boycotted the elections because they were offended by the Comelec order switching their precinct assignments "to avoid any anomaly."

Public school teachers were up in arms after Ramos switched their precinct assignments just two days before the elections, supposedly to prevent possible fraud.

Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Bora on Tuesday said the teachers could be jailed for six years and expelled from government service for refusing to discharge their duties during the elections.

Instead of prosecuting the teachers, the Comelec should investigate Dr. Rolando Magno, Parañaque's schools division superintendent, for delaying the submission of the BET list for at least a month, according to Santos.

Ramos himself had revealed that Magno modified the list "to follow the orders of someone," before Magno submitted it on July 11. Thus, Ramos said, he ordered the transfer of those assigned at District I to the other polling district.

"Instead of submitting the list on July 10 as he had promised, Magno met with the city's school board that day," Ramos said. "Now, why did he do that?"

The Alliance of Concerned Teachers yesterday went to the Parañaque teachers' rescue, saying they should not "bear the brunt of the country's unsystematic, violent, and corrupt electoral system."

Driver, maid win in Forbes polls

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE FAMILY driver of Fernando Zobel and a helper in the Lopez household in Forbes Park, Makati are among the elected officials in the barangay election on Monday.

Fortunato "Bong" Lansang, driver of Fernando Zobel, and Janneth Escarlan, a domestic helper of Mario Lopez, will govern Forbes Park residents, who also elected prominent businessman Jose Concepcion Jr. to a second term as barangay chair.

Lansang and Escarlan got 750 and 736 votes, respectively.

Five others who ran under Concepcion's group also filled up the rest of the *kagawad* posts. They are Rosanna Fores, who got the most votes as *kagawad*, Reynaldo Alejandro, Victorina "Chichi" Laperal, Menchu Soriano and Felix "Lito" Mabanta.

Concepcion said the inclusion of Lansang and Escarlan in his ticket is important considering that 60 percent or about 1,200 people in the 500 homes in Forbes Park are household helpers. One household usually employs an average of four helpers, Concepcion said.

"Every time, it was only the residents who were members," he said. "I said if we want to build a community, we must build a community of all who are present."

He added that household staff would probably be more comfortable telling Lansang and Escarlan their concerns.

The tallying of the votes was finished at about 9 p.m. at the basketball court in Forbes Park on Monday, with Concepcion getting 60 percent or 865 votes over rival Enrique Lagdameo's 538 votes.

Concepcion promised to keep the barangay politically neutral, to ensure that proper services and benefits would be delivered to the people and to increase community involvement, especially in city ordinances that the local council would propose.

Bomb scare

TERROR gripped Pasay City anew when authorities yesterday afternoon recovered a bag believed to be containing a bomb at the Edsa Station of the Light Rail Transit.

LRT operations were halted for around 20 minutes as policemen tried to identify the contents of the backpack left on the floor of the north-bound section of the station around 3 p.m., said security guard Noel Retales.

Members of the Special Weapons and Tactics also secured the area to protect anxious passengers in case of a bomb explosion.

No one could tell who left the backpack which contained clothes and other personal belongings at the LRT station. It was later taken to the LRT office at the Central Station for safekeeping.

Christian Esguerra

GMA gives nod to 'color-coding' review

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has approved the review of the color-coding traffic reduction scheme that could pave the way for other measures to ease traffic congestion in Metro Manila.

She approved Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando's plan during her consultation meeting with Metro Manila mayors on Tuesday.

At that meeting, Ms Macapagal granted the mayors' request to be given administrative control over police forces in their areas.

She said she will issue an executive order in two weeks.

The review of the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program, popularly referred to as "color coding" was among the strategic programs Fernando presented to the President.

Fernando asked the President's support for his plan to review the color-coding (scheme) and adopt other Traffic Demand Measures and other appropriate traffic schemes in major thoroughfares like Edsa, which the President approved.

The color-coding scheme bans private vehicles from plying major roads once a week depending on the license number's last digit.

Fernando, who assumed office two weeks ago, reportedly doubts if the scheme was still effective.

Meanwhile, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that, so far, only Metro Manila mayors will be given full police control.

He said other local government units do not have the resources to handle the responsibility.

"I think there's distinction between Manila and provincial mayors in terms of resources," he said in a news briefing yesterday.

"This will involve a lot of resources. At least in Metro Manila all LGUs perhaps except one would be in a position to handle the administrative requirements of this arrangement," he added.

Once given administrative control, mayors can hire, fire and promote police officers as they see fit.

Mayors had enjoyed full control over the police before martial rule.

Bunye admitted that, as in the past, some mayors could abuse their powers and treat the police as their "private armies."

Should that happen, he said the National Police Commission could step in and assume police control in that city or municipality.

Bunye was not sure however if a mere EO could grant Metro Manila mayors full police control.

Bunye, who was Muntinlupa mayor for 12 years, said giving mayors full police control "will definitely help" them bring down criminality.

On Tuesday Ms Macapagal also supported Fernando's other programs, such as the:

- sustained clearing of illegal obstruction in sidewalks;
- construction of additional bridges and interconnection of secondary roads;
- use of the railroad transfer station system to transport Metro Manila's garbage to a waste processing site within a 150-km radius;
- simplification of government transactions; and
- transfer of flood control functions from the Department of Public Works and Highways to the MMDA.

Politician's son rapes hospital girl

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

I'M BACK to work and I love it !

Although I take time out from work for at least two weeks in a year, I miss my job a few days into my vacation.

Somebody said one has to take a vacation from a vacation. Meaning, to extend the vacation because it was too short. That statement was probably made by a person who didn't love his work.

***

I think it was the Chinese sage, Confucius, who said that people who consider their job as a hobby are very lucky people.

Journalists are among the luckiest people in the world because they consider their work their hobby. I am one very lucky guy because I happen to be a member of that group of people that considers work as a hobby.

One never gets tired indulging a hobby because of the pleasure derived from it. So people who consider their work as a hobby keep on working until they die of old age or sickness. Many of the columnists and editors I admired didn't retire because they loved the profession; death made them stop working.

***

But I really didn't go on vacation in the true sense of the word. I was hot on a story about a pretty young hospital worker who was gang-raped. I was all prepared to go to the United States, where the girl is now hiding, to try to convince her to prosecute the persons who violated her. But the victim's parents would not want to talk to me. I kept going back to their home in Dasmariñas, Cavite to convince them to give me the girl's address in California so I could talk to her. My efforts proved futile as they always closed their door on me.

What makes this rape so special?

One of the rapists is allegedly the son, rather the stepson, of a politician who has presidential ambitions.

***

I stumbled upon the story before I went on vacation starting July 3. So, when vacation time came, I was still working.

Here are the facts that I gathered:

One day in January, this year, the pretty 23-year-old woman, who worked as an admitting clerk in a first-class hospital in Makati, was waiting for a ride home to Dasmariñas, Cavite, when young men in a Mercedes Benz chanced upon her. They snatched her in front of other people also waiting for a ride.

The men, two of them described as having Caucasian mestizo features and the third as Chinese-looking, took turns raping her somewhere in Laguna. Lucky for her, they just dumped her instead of killing her. In many rape cases, the victim is killed.

***

One of her rapists is, as stated above, a powerful politician's stepson. He is the product of a previous marriage by the mother who met the politician, who was still a ruthless killer then, under unusual circumstances. In fact, there is talk that it was the politician who had the boy's father killed.

Perhaps to make amends for his sin against the boy's father, the politician adopted the boy and now loves him like his own son. The boy has become spoiled. Very, very spoiled.

So spoiled is he that he left the Philippine Military Academy as a cadet because he didn't like the food being served there.

***

The boy studies at the University of Sto. Tomas. He drives around in a very expensive Mercedes Benz, most probably the one used in snatching the girl.

He is scot-free because the girl has fled to the United States, apparently afraid of the consequences of staying here and filing the case. She belongs to a lower middle class family. The family lives in a modest village in Dasmariñas.

How was she able to obtain a visa from the US Embassy which is very strict in issuing visas to young, unmarried individuals who don't belong to rich and prominent families?

***

The answer is simple: the boy-rapist's father apparently got the visa for her.

The rich and powerful politician probably paid her off and her family so they would keep quiet about the whole thing.

Because they got away with the crime, the boy and his gang will continue to look for more rape victims.

I know a girl who was abducted in the same manner: picked off from a crowd waiting for a ride to the office. But this girl was able to escape when the gang refueled at a gas station in Laguna.

***

Newly installed Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes "Jun" Ebdane should make it his task to go after the gang headed by this politician's son.

Ebdane can probably assign the task to Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte who has been commissioned by President Macapagal-Arroyo as a consultant on crime. Duterte hates drug pushers, kidnappers, robbers and rapists like the Plague.

If the gang-rape took place in Duterte's turf, those rich kids would not be going around free to hunt for more girls to rape.

***

Last year, a coed of a Catholic university in Davao City was killed after she was raped.

The rapist was identified. He suffered before he died at the hands of a vigilante group. As the rapist was dying of torture, one of his tormentors took a picture of him. Photos of him in the throes of death or minutes after he was killed were scattered in strategic places in the city.

The people of Davao City praised the rapist's killers.

I wonder when those rich kids will suffer the fate of that Davao City rapist?

METROBRIEFS

Chop-chop lady in Malabon

BODY PARTS of an unidentified woman that were kept in a sack were found on Tuesday in the septic tank of the Central Luzon Conference office of Seventh Day Adventist church on Gov. Pascual Avenue Barangay Potrero, Malabon City. Authorities said a woman's head was also found yesterday in front of the Seventh Day Adventist Church on Mangosteen Street in Barangay Potrero. Nestor Penafort, a worker at the Central Luzon compound, told police he found the sack containing the body parts while he was de-clogging the drainage system of the compound. Police said that the victim's hands and feet are still missing. The septic tank is beside the house of Genbert Pahulas, 29, an electrician whose cousin Vilma Geeira, 21, has been missing since February. Police said they are still determining if the body parts belonged to Geeira. *Tina Santos*

Trigger-happy in Caloocan

POLICEMAN Noestro Co, 28, of Phase 8-B, Bagong Silang, Caloocan, and his neighbor Noel Llantino were shot dead on Tuesday in Caloocan City. Officer on case PO1 Josellto Bagting said police are now hunting down suspect Ruben Lopez, 28, also of Phase 8-B, Bagong Silang. Police said Lopez and his brother Eddie, and Llantino were having a drinking session when Lopez fired his 9mm pistol into the air for no apparent reason. Police said Llantino had approached Co, who was walking home, to settle Lopez's indiscriminate firing. Lopez then stood up and repeatedly shot Co and Llantino, police said.

Shootout in Quezon City

SUSPECT Henry Vibal of Craig Street in Sampaloc, Manila was killed on Tuesday in a shootout with policemen in Quezon City. Also injured were PO2 Wilfredo Macatangay and Vibal's companions, brothers Jose and Carlos Yome of 134 Everlasting Lane, Pagasa, Barangay Canlogan, Pasig, police said. Investigation showed that the suspects, who were armed with handguns, knives and a grenade, held up the passengers of a jeepney driven by Julius Urbi, 33, near the Ever Gotesco Mall on Commonwealth Avenue. But the passengers jumped out of the vehicle and sought help from policemen PO2 Eden Pasera, PO2 Rolando Lopez and PO2 Wilfredo Macatangay. *Alcuin Papa*

Shot dead in Batasan Hills

THREE UNIDENTIFIED men shot dead on Tuesday Allan Vebal, 26, of 8 Kalayaan Drive, Batasan Hills, Quezon City, for what police said was an old grudge. Vebal died from three gunshot wounds in the face and back while undergoing treatment at the Fairview General Hospital, police said. Witnesses told police that Vebal was walking around a basketball court on Kalayaan Street in Barangay Batasan Hills about 10 p.m. when the suspects appeared and shot him They told police the suspects each had a pistol The suspects escaped after the shooting witnesses said *Alcuin Papa*

GLOBAL PLANNERS, INC. presents
Rainy Day Sale
on
Health & Beauty
Products
We're back with a two-day bargain sale on health and beauty products for today's active men & women.
Exhibit sale of lifestyle products that will bring out the best in you.
July 18 & 19, Thur/Fri., 9AM-7PM
PSE Auditorium, Tektite Towers
Lots of raffle prizes! Free Admission
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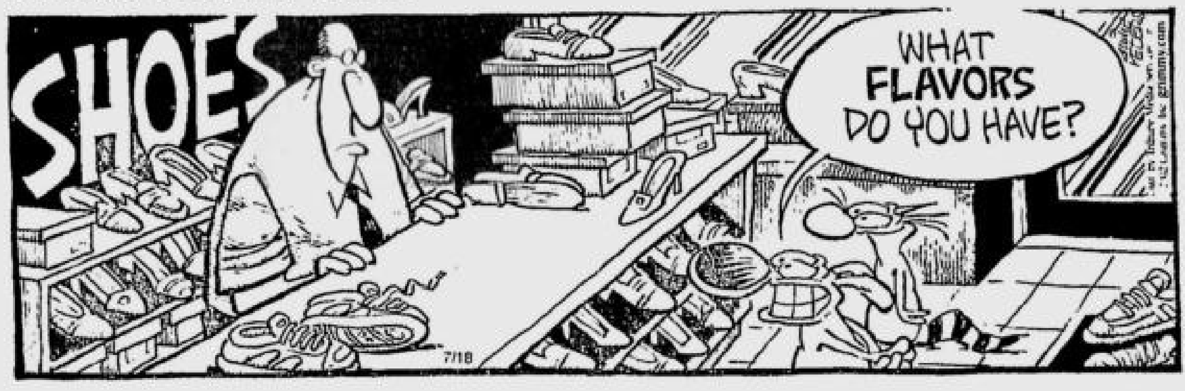
sunday INQUIRER magazine GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
Home Radio 97.9 Citibank Clorets

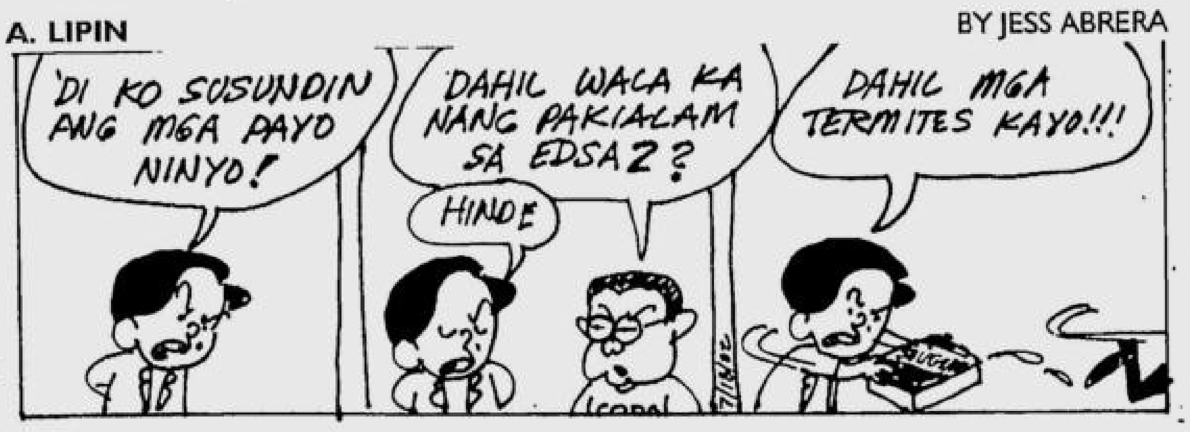
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


SHOES
WHAT FLAVORS DO YOU HAVE?
7/18

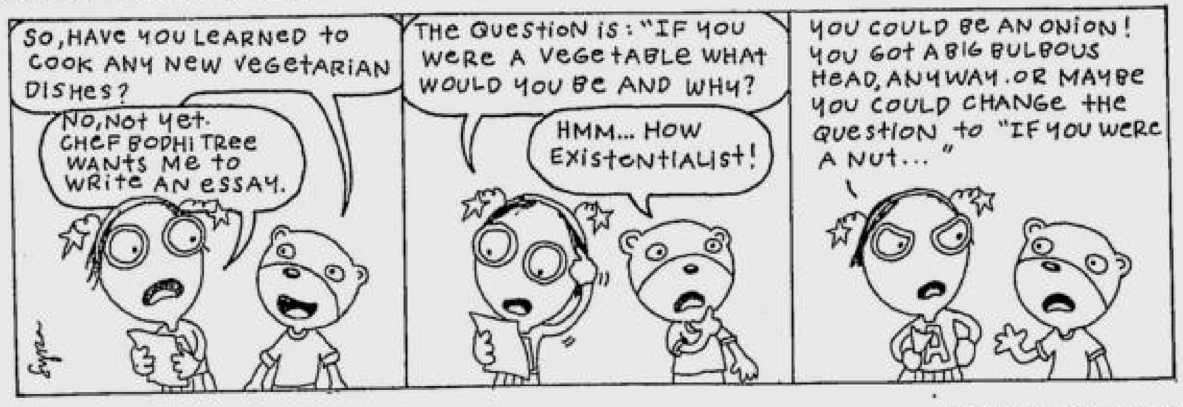
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


'DI KO SUSUNDIN ANG MGA PAYO NINYO!
DAHIL WALA KA NANG PAKIALAM SA EDSA 2?
HINDE
DAHIL MGA TERMITES KAYO!!!

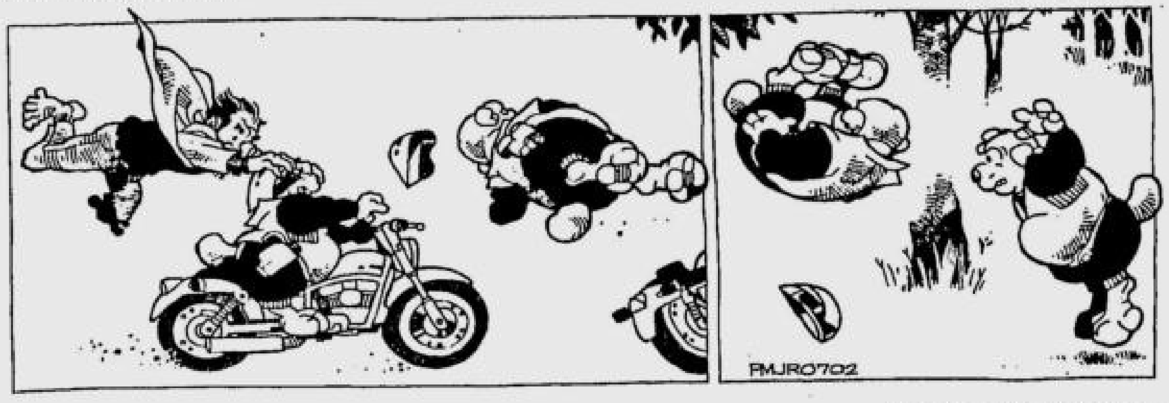
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


So, HAVE YOU LEARNED to COOK ANY NEW VEGETARIAN DISHES?
NO, NOT YET. CHEF BODHI TREE WANTS ME to WRITE AN ESSAY.
THE QUESTION IS: "IF YOU WERE A VEGETABLE WHAT WOULD YOU BE AND WHY?
HMM... HOW EXISTENTIALIST!
YOU COULD BE AN ONION! YOU GOT A BIG BULBOUS HEAD, ANYWAY. OR MAYBE YOU COULD CHANGE THE QUESTION to "IF YOU WERE A NUT..."

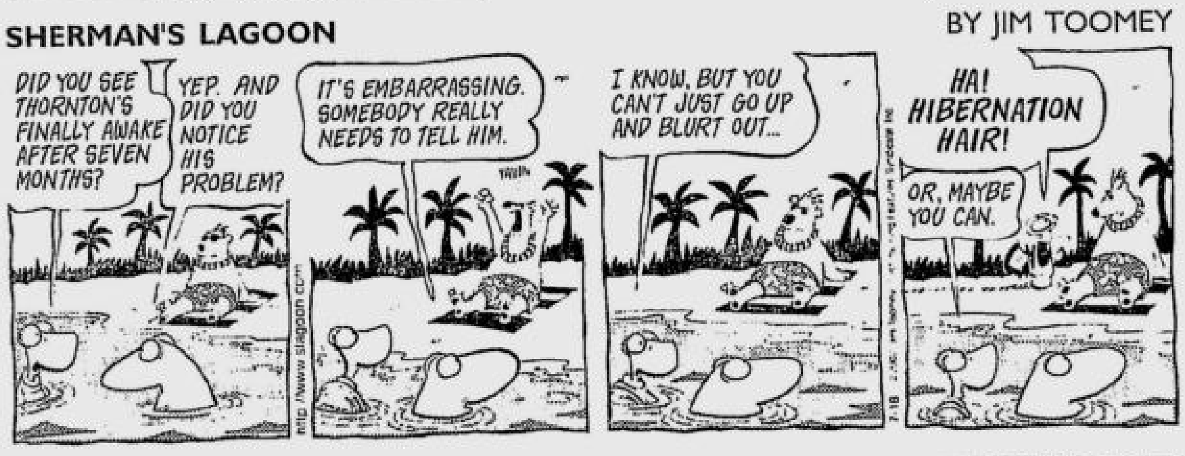
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR



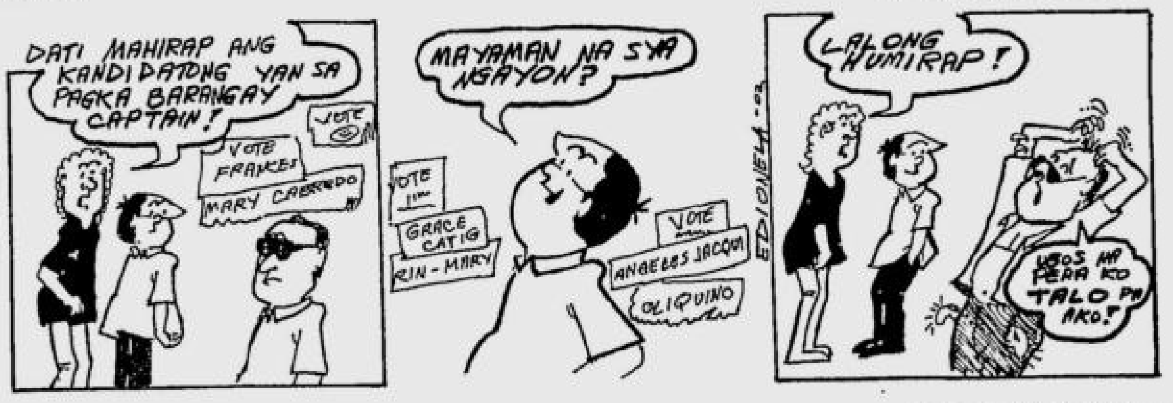
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


DID YOU SEE THORNTON'S FINALLY AWAKE AFTER SEVEN MONTHS?
YEP. AND DID YOU NOTICE HIS PROBLEM?
IT'S EMBARRASSING. SOMEBODY REALLY NEEDS TO TELL HIM.
I KNOW, BUT YOU CAN'T JUST GO UP AND BLURT OUT...
HA! HIBERNATION HAIR!
OR, MAYBE YOU CAN.
http://www.slagoon.com

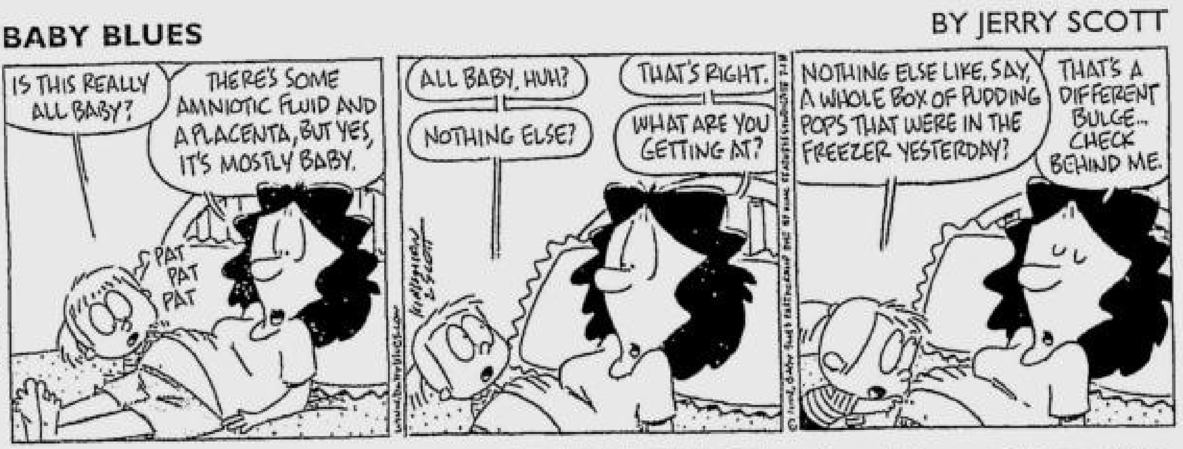
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


DATI MAHIRAP ANG KANDIDATONG YAN SA PAGKA BARANGAY CAPTAIN!
VOTE
VOTE FRANCES
MARY CABREDO
MAYAMAN NA SYA NGAYON?
VOTE
GRACE CATIG
RIN-MARY
VOTE
ANGELES JACQUI
OLIQUINO
LALONG HUMIRAP!
UBOS NA PERA KO TALO PA AKO!
EDIONELA-02

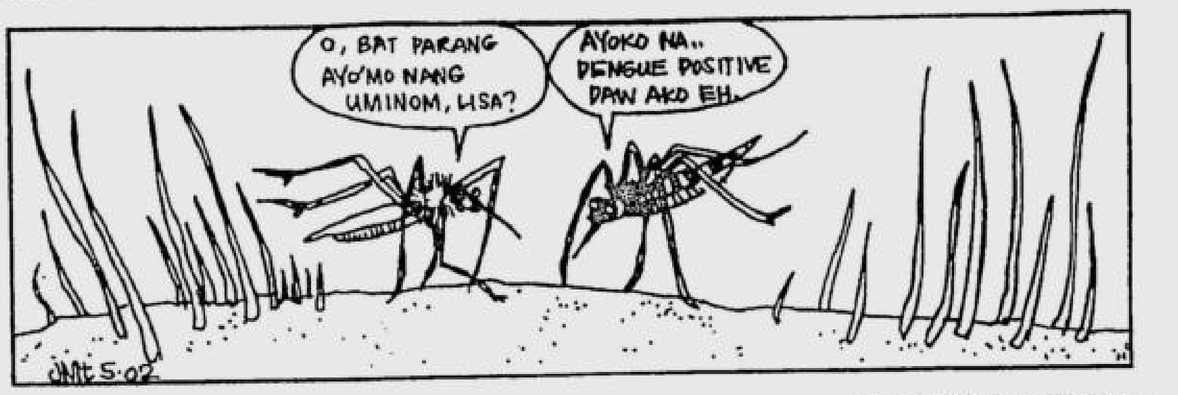
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


IS THIS REALLY ALL BABY?
THERE'S SOME AMNIOTIC FLUID AND A PLACENTA, BUT YES, IT'S MOSTLY BABY.
PAT PAT PAT
ALL BABY, HUH?
NOTHING ELSE?
THAT'S RIGHT.
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING AT?
NOTHING ELSE LIKE, SAY, A WHOLE BOX OF PUDDING POPS THAT WERE IN THE FREEZER YESTERDAY?
THAT'S A DIFFERENT BULGE... CHECK BEHIND ME.

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


O, BAT PARANG AYO'MO NANG UMINOM, LISA?
AYOKO NA.. DENGUE POSITIVE DAW AKO EH.
JMT 5.02

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hume Cronyn, John Glenn, James Brolin, Nelson Mandela

Happy Birthday: Your outgoing personality will help you overcome your deepest fears this year. You will pursue pleasure and social activities that are intense and also sure to bring you adventure. You will follow your heart and your dreams. Getting involved in a risky financial venture will result in losses. Your numbers are 3, 12, 28, 32, 36, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Any involvement with investment groups, large corporations, government agencies or institutions will pay off today. Don't stand back and wait for others to make a move.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will be sensitive to the needs of others today. Interest in history, genealogy, foreign cultures and philosophy will enhance your vision and decisions today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Deception or misunderstandings about money, contracts and your responsibilities to others will develop. You must use discrimination in all your dealings.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will have deep concern for the people you deal with on a daily basis. Your imagination will spark a host of creative ideas that you should try to embellish. Take action.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will be emotionally tied to family today even if you would rather be doing something with a friend. Your interest and ideas regarding products could easily lead to your own business.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can expect to have difficulties with relatives, neighbors and friends if you don't communicate precisely. If you try to skirt issues you may discover that someone misinterprets what you mean and spreads it around.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You will have more to do with education, travel and communications today. You can ask for a raise or make career changes that will raise your earning potential. Avoid unnecessary expenses.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your personal outlook will change. Your desire to be free from responsibilities and from someone who is trying to tie up your time will result in severing the connection. .

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Memories will surface, leaving you feeling a little uneasy today. You need to take care of private affairs that have been plaguing you. Involvement with institutions will turn out to be beneficial.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will offer a lot to a group or organization you belong to. You'll instinctively know how to mediate to get things running smoothly. A little extra work on your part will be well worth it.

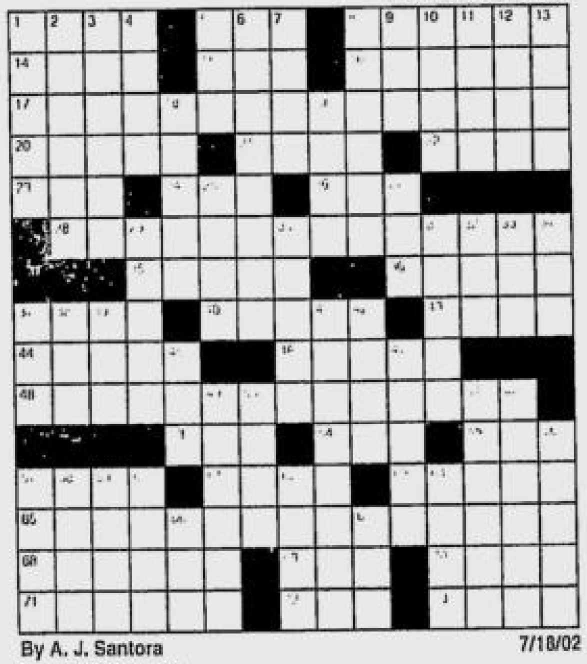
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will have no trouble finishing what you start today. Focus will be all that's required to make things happen. Work hard and you will reach your professional goals.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your intuitive ideas will lead you in a new direction. You will become impatient if you don't satisfy your intellectual curiosity. Listening and observing will be the key to getting ahead.

Birthday Baby: You will go to great lengths to be sure everything is just right. You will be caring, just and very kind in the way you handle others.

DAILY CROSSWORD

IMSPuzzles@aol.com



By A. J. Santora
North Grafton, MA

7/18/02

ACROSS
1 Sty matriarchs
5 Baton Rouge sch.
8 Composer Gustav
14 Radiate
15 Decide
16 Hebrew prophet
17 Earth-centered view of the universe
20 Country singer Travis
21 Casual talk
22 Writer Quindlen
23 Sault __ Marie
24 Female sandpiper
26 __-mo
28 Yo-yo trick
35 Love affair
36 First name in gymnastics
37 Old-time boxer Max
40 Bony outgrowths
43 Bugle call
44 Wading bird
46 Rib
48 Frodo's story, with "The"
53 Average score
54 Old gray mare
55 Broadcast
57 Queens stadium
61 Egyptian Christian
63 Fracas
65 Prepare for an assault
68 Biblical mount
69 Rage
70 River in Normandy
71 Assails
72 WWII troop transport
73 Resting spot

DOWN
1 Religious denominations
2 Code of silence
3 More crafty
4 Let it stand
5 Destiny
6 Added zest
7 Cedar Breaks state
8 European thrush
9 Egyptian viper
10 Sunken fence
11 Property claim
12 Work for
13 Ostrich cousin
18 Guitar stroke
19 Whip stroke
25 Eve's grandson
27 Acknowledge
29 Equipped with paddles
30 Veracity
31 Like Cheerios
32 Letters on vitamins
33 Sass
34 Prosecutors, for short
37 __ Paese cheese
38 Earlier
39 Do it wrong
41 Goes in again
42 Poet Teasdale
45 Go one better
47 Greek letter
49 Diamond surfaces
50 Dog or fox chaser?
51 In abundance
52 Earth pigment
56 Return to defaults
57 Wound covering
58 Take on
59 Periods
60 Land unit
62 Singer Collins
64 Swelled heads
66 Cicero's lang.
67 Drenched

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

T	O	R	A	H	■	E	R	A	S	■	C	R	O	C
I	T	A	L	O	■	L	A	R	A	■	H	O	R	A
D	I	P	L	O	M	A	T	I	C	P	O	U	C	H
E	S	T	■	F	A	T	E	■	K	O	R	E	A	N
■	■	■	A	B	I	E	■	P	R	I	E	■	■	■
T	U	N	N	E	L	■	B	R	A	■	A	C	H	E
A	N	I	T	A	■	E	P	I	C	S	■	L	E	A
M	I	L	I	T	A	R	Y	S	E	C	R	E	T	S
E	T	E	■	S	T	R	O	M	■	E	E	R	I	E
D	E	S	K	■	T	O	N	■	S	N	A	K	E	S
■	■	■	I	D	O	L	■	S	P	A	R	■	■	■
E	R	A	S	E	R	■	A	V	E	R	■	H	B	I
C	O	M	M	A	N	D	D	E	C	I	S	I	O	N
O	P	I	E	■	E	R	I	N	■	O	R	G	A	N
N	E	S	T	■	Y	E	N	S	■	S	O	A	R	S

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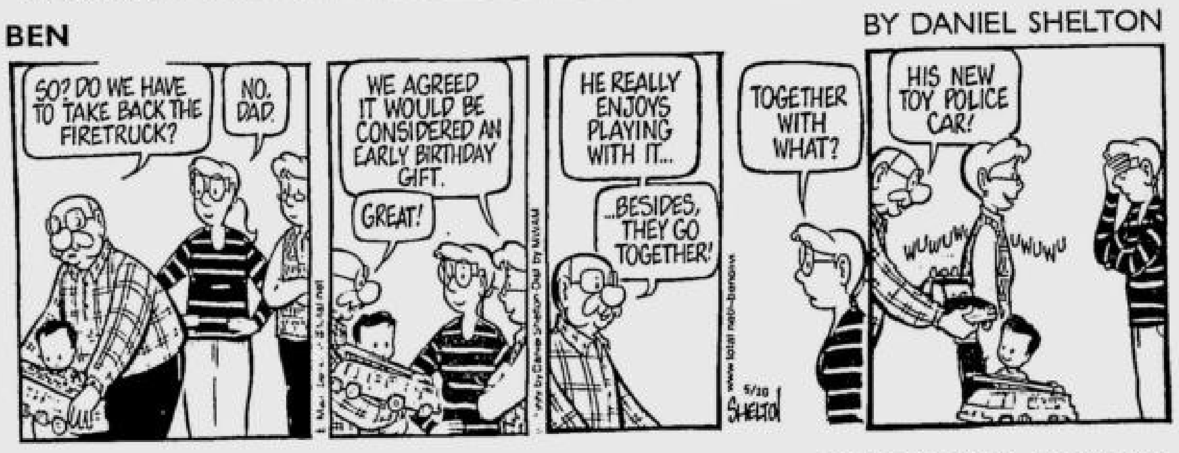
7/18/02

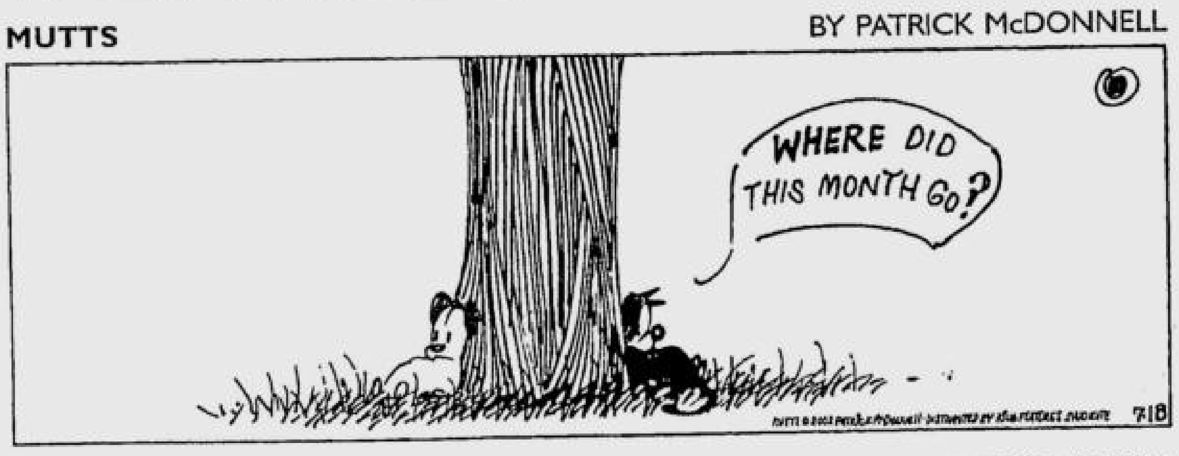
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SO? DO WE HAVE TO TAKE BACK THE FIRETRUCK?
NO. DAD.
WE AGREED IT WOULD BE CONSIDERED AN EARLY BIRTHDAY GIFT.
GREAT!
HE REALLY ENJOYS PLAYING WITH IT...
...BESIDES, THEY GO TOGETHER!
TOGETHER WITH WHAT?
HIS NEW TOY POLICE CAR!
WUWUWU
WUWUWU
SHELTON

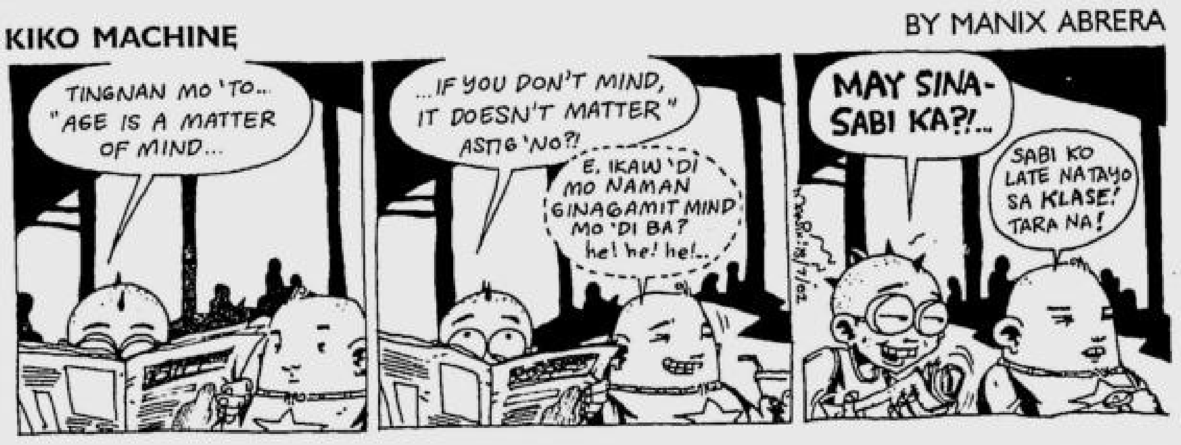
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHERE DID THIS MONTH GO?
7-18

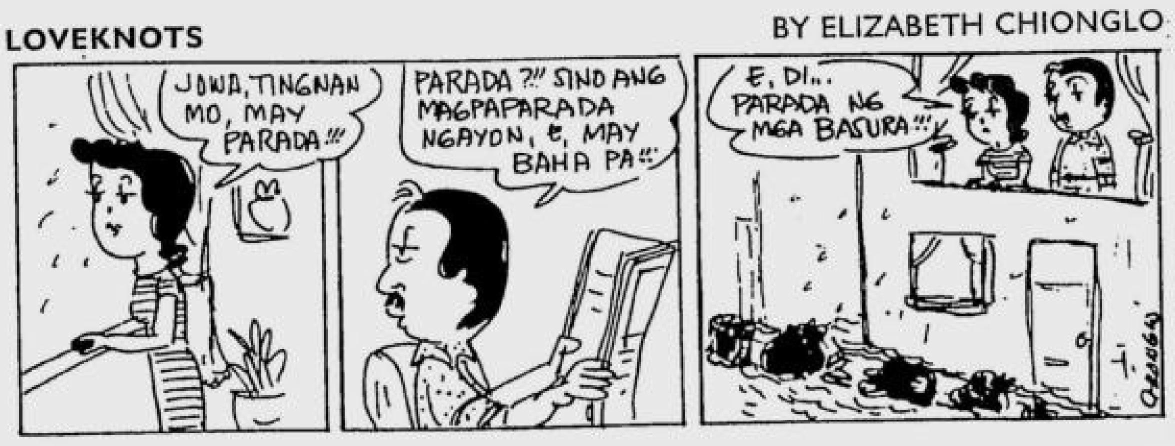
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TINGNAN MO 'TO.. "AGE IS A MATTER OF MIND...
...IF YOU DON'T MIND, IT DOESN'T MATTER" ASTIG 'NO?!
E, IKAW 'DI MO NAMAN GINAGAMIT MIND MO 'DI BA? he! he! he!...
MAY SINA-SABI KA?!..
SABI KO LATE NA TAYO SA KLASE! TARA NA!

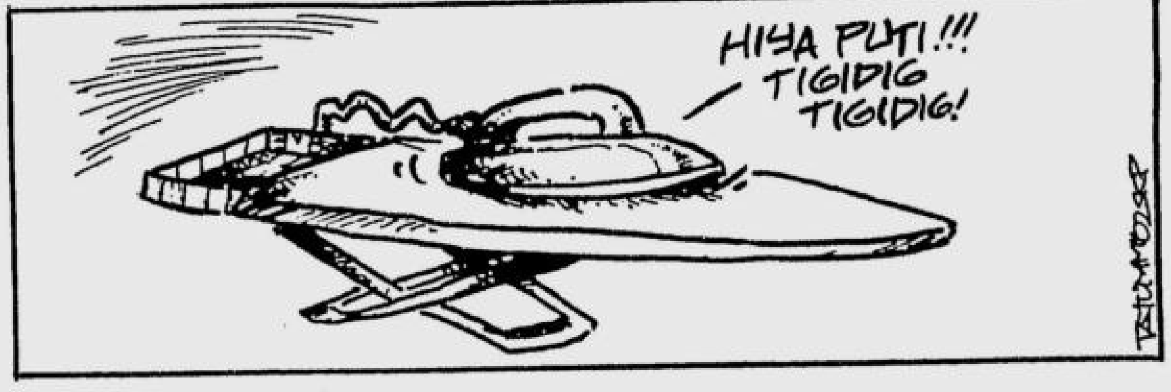
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

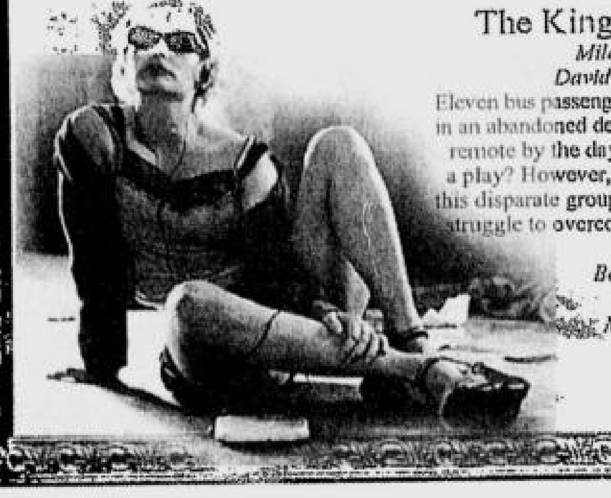

JOWA, TINGNAN MO, MAY PARADA!!!
PARADA?!! SINO ANG MAGPAPARADA NGAYON, E, MAY BAHA PA!!
E, DI.. PARADA NG MGA BASURA!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HIYA PUTI!!! TIGIDIG TIGIDIG!

AYALA CINEMAS



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The King is Alive, July 10-16

Miles Anderson, Romane Bohringer, David Bradley & Jennifer Jason Leigh

Eleven bus passengers take shelter from the elements in an abandoned desert town. As rescue grows more remote by the day an idea emerges: why not stage a play? However, the choice of King Lear plunges this disparate group of travelers into turmoil as they struggle to overcome nature's wrath and their own mortality.

Best Actress (Leigh), 2000 Tokyo International Film Festival

MTRCB Rating Restricted 18 (R)

NOKIA INQUIRER

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MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

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1 (DDS)	BIG FAT LIAR
2 (SDDS)	BAD COMPANY
3 (DTS)	HIGH CRIME
4 GOLD (DTS)	MINORITY REPORT
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	MEN IN BLACK 2
6 GOLD (SDDS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	THIRD WHEEL
8	FOREVERMORE
9	POWER PUFF GIRLS
10	KAPALIT

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	
2	KAPALIT
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA
TEL. 551 63 87

1	KAPALIT
2	MEN IN BLACK 2
3	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	HIGH CRIME
2	KAPALIT
3	TAMPISAW
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MEN IN BLACK 2
5	FROUT IS SWELLING

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
2	FOREVERMORE
3	SUGAT
4	MEN IN BLACK 2
5	KAPALIT
6	HIGH CRIME
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1	MEN IN BLACK 2

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	SUPER B
2	MINORITY REPORT

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	KAPALIT
3	

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	JIHAD
A	HAPDI SA TAGINIT

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	JIHAD WARRIOR
2	KAPALIT
3	TWO MUCH FLESH
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	MEN IN BLACK 2
2	
3	
4	MINORITY REPORT
5	BAD COMPANY
6	KAPALIT
7 (DTS)	HIGH CRIME
8 (SDDS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
9 (DOLBY)	THIRD WHEEL

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	MEN IN BLACK 2

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	KAPALIT
2	FOREVERMORE
3	BAD COMPANY
4 (SDDS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
5	HIGH CRIMES
6 (DOLBY)	MEN IN BLACK 2
7 (DTS)	MINORITY REPORT
8	KATAWAN MO . . .
9	SUGAT

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	
2	
3	
4	FOREVERMORE
5 (SDDS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
6	KAPALIT
7 (DOLBY)	MEN IN BLACK 2
8	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	MEN IN BLACK 2
2	KAPALIT
3 (DTS)	HIGH CRIME
4	FOREVERMORE
5 (SDDS)	MEN IN BLACK 2

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	MEN IN BLACK 2

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	MEN IN BLACK 2

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	
Lords	HINOG SA PILIT
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	MEN IN BLACK 2
2	KAPALIT
3	JUST VISITING

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	MEN IN BLACK 2
2	KAPALIT
3	THIRD WHEEL
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	KAPALIT
2	

Berma
TEL. 879 21 68 / 879 21 67

1	KAPALIT
2	MEN IN BLACK 2

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	SUGAT
2	KAPALIT
3 (DTS)	MEN IN BLACK 2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	KAPALIT
2 (DTS)	HIGH CRIME
3 (DOLBY)	MEN IN BLACK 2
4	BIG FAT LIAR

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	KAPALIT
2 (DOLBY)	MEN IN BLACK 2
3 (DTS)	HIGH CRIME
4	BIG FAT LIAR

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	SCOOBY DOO
2	MEN IN BLACK 2
3	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
2	SLACKERS
3 (DOLBY)	MEN IN BLACK 2
4 (DTS)	SCOOBY DOO

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
2	
3	KAPALIT
4 (DTS)	SUGAT

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	MEN IN BLACK 2
2	KAPALIT
3 (DTS)	HIGH CRIME
4	BIG FAT LIAR
5	SUGAT

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	KAPALIT
2	MEN IN BLACK 2
3	SUGAT

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	MEN IN BLACK 2
2	HIGH CRIME
3	KAPALIT

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	
3	

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	
2	
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	SUGAR
2 (DTS)	

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
2	KAPALIT
3	FOREVERMORE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	MEN IN BLACK 2
2	HIGH CRIME
3	MEN IN BLACK 2
4	KAPALIT

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	MEN IN BLACK 2
2	SLACKERS
3 (DTS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
4	POWER PUFF GIRLS

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BACK IN BLACK

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SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
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1	BAD COMPANY
2	HIGH CRIMES
3	MEN IN BLACK II
4	MINORITY REPORT
5	MEN IN BLACK II
6	KAPALIT
7	FOREVERMORE
8	POWER PUFF GIRLS

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	THIRD WHEEL
3	MEN IN BLACK II
4	POWER PUFF GIRLS
5	KAPALIT
6	FOREVERMORE
7	MINORITY REPORT
8	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
9	HIGH CRIMES
10	BAD COMPANY

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
6350749

1	KAPALIT
2	HIGH CRIMES
3	POWER PUFF GIRLS
4	THIRD WHEEL
5	MEN IN BLACK II
6	FOREVERMORE
7	MINORITY REPORT
8	MEN IN BLACK II
9	BAD COMPANY
10	SUM OF ALL FEARS
11	HIYAS SA PARAISO
12	KAPALIT

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	HIGH CRIMES
2	BAD COMPANY
3	THE THIRD WHEEL
4	MEN IN BLACK II
5	MINORITY REPORT
6	MEN IN BLACK II
7	BIG FAT LIAR
8	SUM OF ALL FEARS
9	POWER PUFF GIRLS
10	FOREVERMORE
11	KAPALIT
12	SLACKERS

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	BAD COMPANY
3	MEN IN BLACK II
4	MINORITY REPORT
5	THIRD WHEEL
6	HIGH CRIMES
7	POWER PUFF GIRLS
8	SUM OF ALL FEARS
9	KAPALIT
10	MEN IN BLACK II
11	FOREVERMORE
12	HIYAS SA PARAISO

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	HIGH CRIMES
2	MEN IN BLACK II
3	KAPALIT
4	FOREVERMORE
5	POWER PUFF GIRLS
6	THIRD WHEEL
7	MINORITY REPORT
8	MEN IN BLACK II

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	THIRD WHEEL
2	BAD COMPANY
3	MEN IN BLACK II
4	HIGH CRIMES
5	BIG FAT LIAR
6	FOREVERMORE
7	KAPALIT
8	MEN IN BLACK II
9	MINORITY REPORT
10	POWER PUFF GIRLS

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	A WALK TO REMEMBER
3	SLACKERS
4	KAPALIT
5	FOREVERMORE
6	RESIDENT EVIL
7	MINORITY REPORT
8	MEN IN BLACK II

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	TAMPISAW
2	CLOSED
3	BAD COMPANY
4	MEN IN BLACK II
5	SLACKERS
6	MEN IN BLACK II
7	CLOSED
8	MINORITY REPORT

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	MEN IN BLACK II
3	POWER PUFF GIRLS
4	FOREVERMORE
5	SLACKERS
6	KAPALIT

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	HIGH CRIMES
2	MEN IN BLACK II
3	MEN IN BLACK II
4	KAPALIT

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	KAPALIT
3	FOREVERMORE
4	HIGH CRIMES

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	A WALK TO REMEMBER
3	AMELIE
4	BAD COMPANY
5	MEN IN BLACK II
6	MINORITY REPORT

SM BICUTAN

1	
2	
3	
4	

SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1	
2	
3	
4	

SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue [illegible] Center Mandaluyong City
6389781-85 loc 120

1	MEN IN BLACK II 10:40 FS / 11:00 MF / 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 10:30 / 11:00 / 12:40 END
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

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2	MEN IN BLACK II
3	POWER PUFF GIRLS
4	THIRD WHEEL
5	KAPALIT
6	MEN IN BLACK II
7	MINORITY REPORT
8	HIGH CRIME
9	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
10	BAD COMPANY

Ermita 536 -7809- 12

1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	POWER PUFF GIRLS
3	HIGH CRIME
4	THIRD WHEEL
5	KAPALIT
6	MEN IN BLACK II
7	MINORITY REPORT

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	THIRD WHEEL
2	MEN IN BLACK II
3	HIGH CRIME
4	MINORITY REPORT
5	MEN IN BLACK II
6	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
7	POWERPUFF GIRLS
8	KAPALIT

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30

1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	THIRD WHEEL
3	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
4	HIGH CRIME
5	POWER PUFF GIRLS
6	KAPALIT
7	MINORITY REPORT
8	FOREVERMORE

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	MEN IN BLACK II
3	THIRD WHEEL
4	MINORITY REPORT
5	KAPALIT
6	HIGH CRIME

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459

1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	POWER PUFF GIRLS
3	FOREVERMORE
4	EMELIE
5	HARDBALL
6	BAD COMPANY

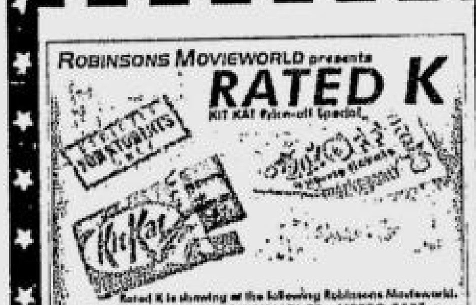
Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78

1	MEN IN BLACK II
2	KATAWAN
3	SLACKERS
4	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
5	TAMPISAW
6	BAD COMPANY

Star Mills- Sn Fernando, Pamp 875- 1927 / 961-5318 / 5270

1	POWER PUFF GIRLS
2	KATAWAN
3	KAPALIT
4	MEN IN BLACK II
5	SLACKERS
6	

malabon citisquare- soon to open.



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WASHINGTON

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WITNESS real-life human drama as C-Interactive Digital Entertainment releases "John Q," starring Academy Award winner Denzel Washington.

Washington plays a man whose nine-year-old son is in need of a life-saving heart transplant. When he discovers that his medical insurance won't cover the costs of the surgery and alternative government aid is unavailable, John Q. Archibald takes a hospital emergency room hostage when he was left with no option to save his child.

Available on original VHS and VCD copies, "John Q" also stars Robert Duvall, James Woods, Ray Lliotta and Anna Heche.

For inquiries, call C-Interactive at 245-5011 to 12.

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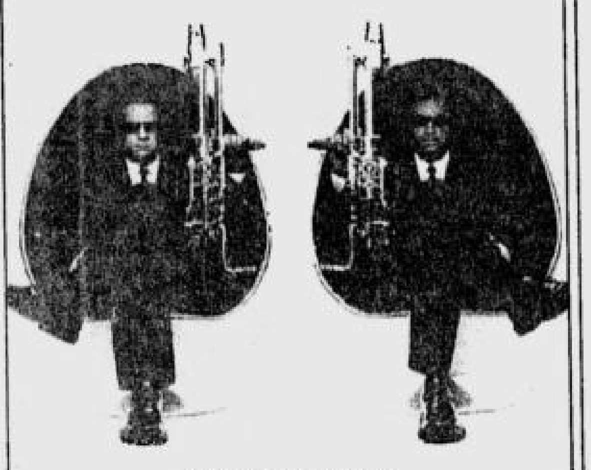

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HIGH CRIMES - P13 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:45, 10:10	POWER PUFF GIRLS - P 13 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 7:40, 9:30	MENI IN BLACK - P 13 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:20

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P 13
CINEMA 2 BAD COMPANY
12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50
P 13
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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	FOREVERMORE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	KAPALIT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MEN IN BLACK II
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	HIGH CRIMES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	MEN IN BLACK II
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE THIRD WHEEL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	KAPALIT
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	MEN IN BLACK II
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	BUKANG BIBIG / BUSINESS WITH PLEASURE
ODEON	MEN IN BLACK II
ODEON-2	COLLATERAL DAMAGE / BATAS NG LANSANGAN
ROBEN	KAPALIT
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	HART'S WAR / SCORPION KING

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	KAPALIT
REMAR	KAPALIT
REMAR-2	SUGAT

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	KAPALIT
B	
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	POWER PUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	FOREVERMORE
CINEMA-2	KAPALIT
CINEMA-3	HIYAS SA PARAISO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BAD COMPANY
CINEMA-6	ALL ABOUT BENJAMIN
CINEMA-7	SUGAT
CINEMA-8	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HIGH CRIMES
CINEMA-12	POWER PUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-14	THIRD WHEEL
CINEMA-15	KAPALIT

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	THIRD WHEEL
CINEMA-2	BIG FAT LIAR
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-4	HIGH CRIMES
CINEMA-5	POWER PUFF GIRLS
CINEMA-6	MEN IN BLACK 2

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA 2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA 4	ALAMID

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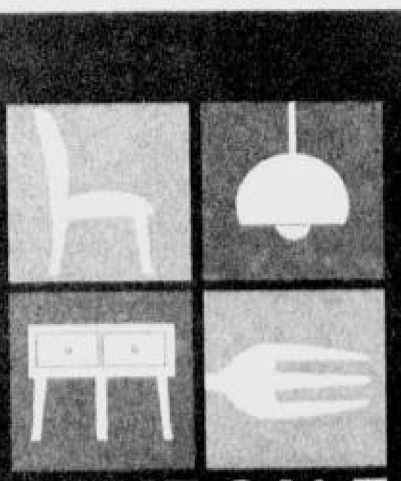
1 MEN IN BLACK 2	1 HIGH CRIMES	1 THE KING IS ALIVE	1 HIGH CRIMES 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	1 MEN IN BLACK 2
2 THE THIRD WHEEL	2 MINORITY REPORT	2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	2 MEN IN BLACK 2 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20	2 MEN IN BLACK 2
3 KAPALIT	3 MEN IN BLACK 2 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	3 MEN IN BLACK 2	3 AMELIE 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20	3 THE THIRD WHEEL
4 HIGH CRIMES	4 LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .	ONSTAGE PAROKYA NI EDGAR @ ONSTAGE JULY 19 (FRI.) - 9 PM	4 MINORITY REPORT 11:20, 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:20	4 POWER PUFF GIRLS
	5 POWER PUFF GIRLS		5 THIRD WHEEL 12:25, 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15	5 HIGH CRIMES
	6 MEN IN BLACK 2			
	7 THE THIRD WHEEL			



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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

True confessions and film promotions

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHAT are stars prepared to do to promote their films? A lot! Not only do they wear themselves out making the rounds of TV shows and shopping malls to plug their latest starrers, but they're even willing to wash their dirty linen in public, and rattle the skeletons in their closet with ghoulish abandon.

Why such shocking "generosity?" To the stars, the important thing is to make their latest starrers big hits at the tills, so that they can get other assignments (at bigger talent fees) from producers.

Films become hits partly because people are talking about them and want to see them, and one way of assuring this is to base movies' publicity on scandal and controversy.

The latest example of this is **Alma Moreno**'s "tell-all" stance in relation to the imbroglio involving her, her separated hubby **Joey Marquez**, and **Kris Aquino**. It's no coincidence that Alma is being so candid, honest and forthcoming just before her comeback movie, "Kapalit?," is about to be shown—complete with copious tears, and everything.

The traditional logic here is that moviegoers will want to see Alma's movie because of her recent and current travails. Is this, in fact, still operative as far as today's viewers are concerned?

Perhaps not on its own, but in the case of Alma's film, its title and basic story suggests similarities to her own marital woes, so the correlation is stronger.

It stands to reason, then, that if Alma's public true-confessions stance makes people feel sorry for her, they could want to see her movie, to sympathetically (if not empathetically) support her comeback effort, and to see for themselves how similar the film's story is to Alma's own Via Lachyrmosa.

If "Kapalit?" clicks with viewers, Alma's "tell-all" strategy would be proven effective. If it doesn't, stars will just have to think of new ways to get viewers into the theaters, aside from the age-old romance and scandal angles.

'Gantimpala: A Silver Harvest'

IF YOU have been involved in any way in any production or workshop of Bulwagang Gantimpala or the Gantimpala Theater Foundation, get in touch with the theater group at 895-8313, and be a part of its 25th anniversary show, "Gantimpala: A Silver Harvest," at the CCP, at 8 p.m. on Friday, July 26.

The anniversary show features a medley of songs from the famous musical "Magsimula Ka," a movement version of "A Day in the Life of an Actor," and a counterpoint of four classic productions—"Kanser," "El Filibusterismo," "Florante at Laura" and "Ibong Adarna."

Tribute will be paid to the late **Rene Requiestas** and **Ray Ventura**, as well as to two living treasures, National Artist **Lucresia Kasilag** and writer **Rene Villanueva**. The evening will end with everybody singing "Entablado," the anthem of stage artists. The new GTF logo will also be unveiled.

'Someone Like You'

ORIGINALLY, **Julia Roberts** was supposed to play the female lead in "Someone Like You," but she dropped out of the production to do "Erin Brockovich." Who could step into Roberts' stellar shoes? The film's producers tapped **Ashley Judd**.

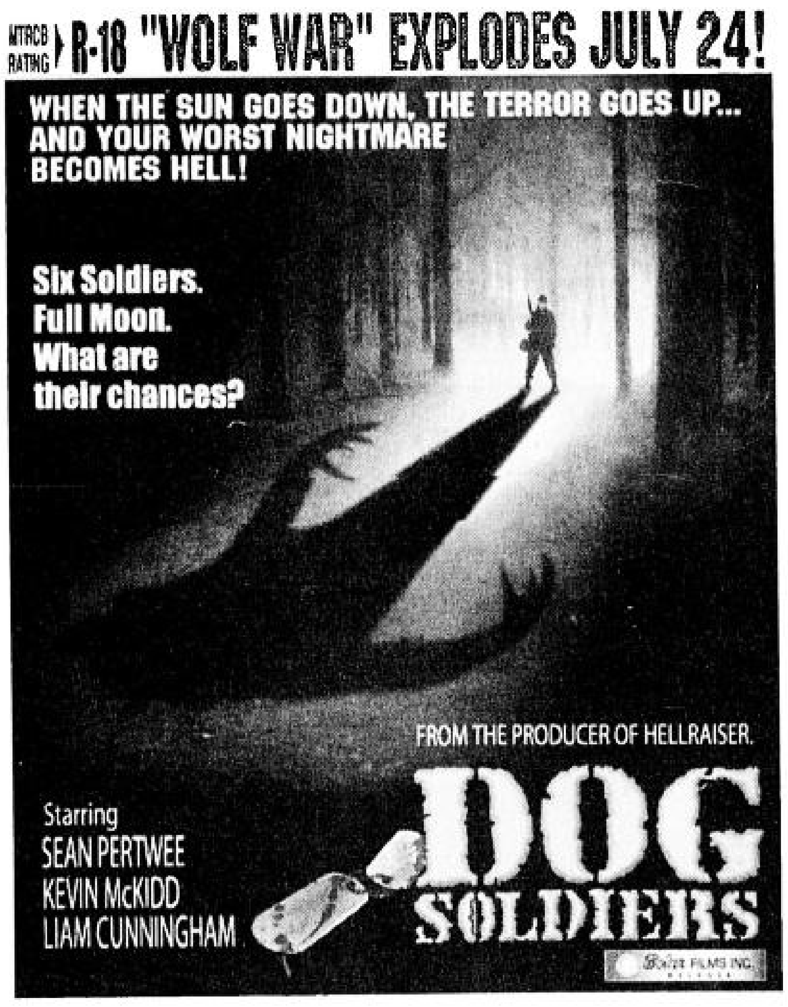
Hollywood insiders thought the casting choice to be risky, at best, because Judd had never starred in a romantic-comedy before. She was gifted and versatile and all that, but could she do a **Meg Ryan** or Julia Roberts?

Producer **Linda Obst** believed she could. She explains her choice: "Ashley's a girl's girl. And get men like her because she's sexy. She's like Meg Ryan because she wears her heart on her sleeve. Yes, she can be wounded—but she can recover. She's resilient."

"Someone Like You" is based on the best-selling book "Animal Husbandry." Judd identified completely with its female protagonist, Jane, a single career woman who has been dumped one time too many. In her grief, she decides that men are just following the path of animals, especially cattle. They meet, mate and move on to the next cow!

It's really nobody's fault, it's just nature and biology. She even uses the theory to explain why her ex, Ray Brown (**Greg Kinnear**) dumped her, and why her sexy roommate, Eddie Alden (**Hugh Jackman**), dates and mates with a new babe every week.

Eventually, of course, the constancy of true love asserts itself and disproves Jane's cynical theory—and nobody's happier than Jane herself!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Daughter inspires Michelle to write children's book

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

MICHELLE Van Eimeren-Alcasid's first children's book, "Butterfly," has been released by Universal Publishing, both in hard bound and paperback editions. Illustrated by **Fernando Escora**, the book comes with a free VCD story of "Butterfly" and an original song composed by Michelle's hubby, **Ogie Alcasid**, who's a prolific songwriter.

"Butterfly" is a welcome change because kids these days don't read enough. They are all hooked on video games, cellphone gadgets and cyber chatting. The library is the most uncool place for them. Whatever happened to the lost art of reading?

"Butterfly" is a story of positive values and great adventures of an awkward caterpillar named Clarissa, who turned into a beautiful butterfly. But the process is not that easy for her since she crawled into the outside world alone.

The former Miss Australia drew inspiration from her four-year-old daughter **Leila**, with whom she spends most of her time.

"It's a reminder for her and all kids not to be in a hurry to grow up," Michelle says. "We always miss the good stuff when we live life at such a fast pace. We must always take time to really savor every moment."

Michelle could have pursued her acting and hosting jobs, but she opted to be a full-time mom and wife.

"When I used to host a daily morning show, I always felt guilty about leaving Leila at home," Michelle says. "I have nothing against working moms but for me, I found the balancing act between career and family really tough so I had to make a choice."

Yet, she's not one who would stagnate so she keeps her creative juices flowing by writing.

"Ogie and I are both sentimental," Michelle says. "He writes songs. I write stories. We both cry like babies just watching the Hallmark Channel."

Being around the Alcasid couple makes one miss the idea of being and staying in love. They are so affectionate without being gooey. They are eagerly awaiting the birth of their second baby.

"I will deliver by Lamaze in Australia, just like with Leila," Michelle discloses. "That really strengthens our bond because Ogie is an active participant when I give birth. He sees how painful and hard it is.

"Leila is also excited because she had been praying for a baby sister or brother. We have not chosen a name yet for the baby yet. We want to see how the baby looks like first, so the name will fit his/her features."

One thing's for sure, though. Their baby will have the look of lasting love especially delivered the Alcasid way.

One-on-one with Pia

I WILL soon have a one-on-one interview with **Pia Guanio**. This item just serves as a teaser. I thoroughly enjoy our girl talk.

I always tease her, "My! Everywhere I look, it's your face I see in every billboard!"

She laughs, "I'm getting sick of my face!"

Pia's face has launched a thousand products. Most of my male friends have a big crush on her. So I cornered her long-time boyfriend **Mike Jacob** (the *muy simpatico* bro of **Christine Jacob**).

I asked Mike, "Don't you feel jealous that your girlfriend is the reigning Crush ng Bayan?"

He chides, "Maybe we should charge entrance fee to those who want to meet her, but sorry guys, that's non-consumable."

They are such a fun couple and you can instantly tell that they never tire of each other's company.

"People keep asking me if Mike and I are still together," Pia says. "Please write that we have no intentions of splitting up. I don't know where people get such crazy ideas."

Seeing them so enamored with each other, you would think that they invented happiness. Or maybe they just perfected it.

Diet's birthday

HAPPY, happy birthday to one of the most gentle-hearted friends I got in the biz—**Diether Ocampo**. He will throw a big bash at Rockstar in Libis, where other bands will jam with his own band, Blow.

I will write about Diet's party in my next column.

To you Diet, may you look back and look ahead with a big smile, knowing that on your long, hard way to fame, you somehow found time to stop and be a friend. And now that you're already way up there, you are still within the reach of the friends you made along the way.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

Fil-Canadian boys make up new boy band

SHOWS

WHAT is 604?

It could be anything: an address, the last three digits of a plate number, or what you would spend on dinner at a moderately priced restaurant.

For Niño Tan Sazon, Ross Glenn Calixterio and Francis John Baguio, 604 is a significant number because it comprises the last three digits of the zip code of Toronto, the Canadian city where they grew up.

604 is also the name of their all-male vocal group and the boys are now here in the Philippines to try their luck. Helping them gain a foothold in the local entertainment scene are Ronnie and Ida Henares of Primeline Inc., both veterans in the field of talent management and imaging.

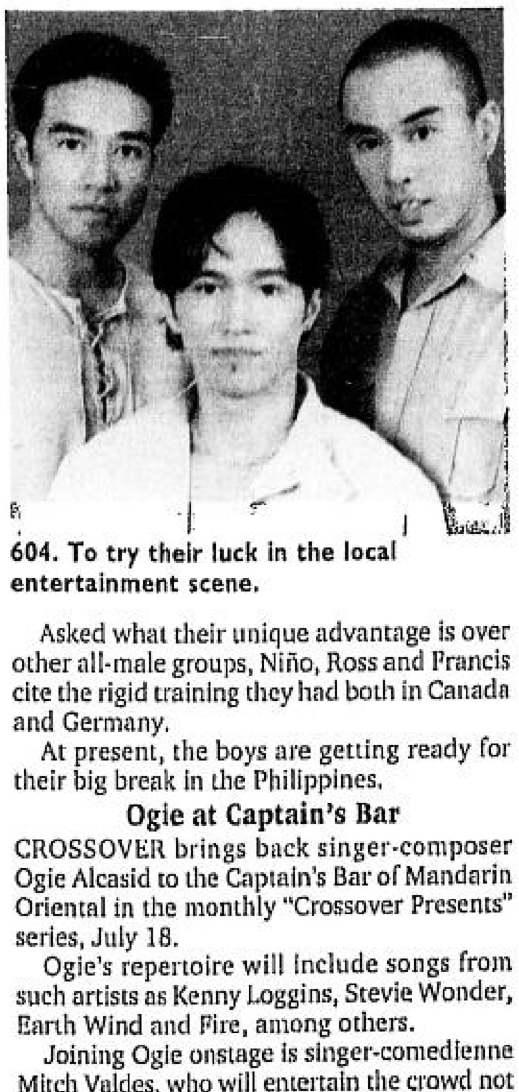
Niño, Ross and Francis (who are all good-looking and single to boot) attended different high schools in Canada and met through mutual friends.

"We liked to sing, so we got together to perform in birthday parties. Then people started hiring us and that was when we decided to become a group," says Niño.

They started out with five members. By the time 604 signed a deal with a German recording company, there were just three of them left.

In the short time that the boys have been here, Niño, Ross and Francis have made a lot of progress. They were recently launched as semi-regulars on GMA 7's top-rating Sunday variety show "SOP," where they will have at least two guesting stints a month.

They also guested on "Martin Late @ Nite," "Asap," "Master Showman Presents," "Lunchbreak," and traveled all over the country for provincial shows.



604. To try their luck in the local entertainment scene.

Asked what their unique advantage is over other all-male groups, Niño, Ross and Francis cite the rigid training they had both in Canada and Germany.

At present, the boys are getting ready for their big break in the Philippines.

Ogie at Captain's Bar

CROSSOVER brings back singer-composer Ogie Alcasid to the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental in the monthly "Crossover Presents" series, July 18.

Ogie's repertoire will include songs from such artists as Kenny Loggins, Stevie Wonder, Earth Wind and Fire, among others.

Joining Ogie onstage is singer-comedienne Mitch Valdes, who will entertain the crowd not only with her music but also with her riotous comic skits, plus "Crossover Presents" resident musicians Bobby Laylo, Cesar Aguas, Mel Villena, Roy Mercado and the vocal group The Opera, with musical director Gerard Salonga.

Show starts 8 p.m. with the cool, instrumental music of Da Capo.

For ticket inquiries, call the Crossover office at 731-1667, Ticket World at 891-5610 or Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental at 750-8888.

VELASQUEZ

Regine at Mimosa

AFTER her grand concert on the steps of the National Museum for the Bantay Bata Foundation, Regine Velasquez takes it mild in "An Intimate Night with Asia's Songbird," July 19, 9 p.m. at Casino Filipino Mimosa in Clarkfield, Pam-panga.

Regine will sing a mixed repertoire of romantic and mid-tempo songs that include "Pangako," "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," "My Heart Will Go On," "Tuwing Umuulan" and "Cry."

The show is mounted by Live Artist Productions, with Maribeth Diaz as president. Musical director is Raul Mitra.

"An Intimate Night with Asia's Songbird" is presented by Mossimo, Ambi Pur Car, Block and White Skin Whitening Lotion and Timex.

Other coming shows of Live Artist will feature Freestyle (July 31 at Ratsky's Tomas Morato) and Zsa Zsa Padilla (Aug. 2 at Casino Filipino in Parañaque, Aug. 17 at Casino Filipino in Tagaytay and Aug. 23 at Casino Filipino in Mimosa).

For more details and ticket information, call 920 2643 or 0918 923 9825.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

▪ Public warned against illegal lenders /B3
▪ Cement firms in P1.4B share-swap deal /B2
▪ BSP sees drop in banks' bad loans /B3
▪ Breaktime /B2

Low interest rates seen to prevail until mid-2003

By Clarissa S. Batino

BANGKO Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday the key overnight interest rates could remain at 10-year lows until the middle of next year if the United States kept its own rates steady.

Buenaventura said the government could afford to keep the rates steady at current levels for the rest of the year even if it exceeded its deficit target by as much as 20 percent.

Asked during a news conference what the central bank would do if the United States kept its rates steady into next year, as many analysts have predicted, Buenaventura said: "We can likewise follow suit, much more forcibly."

He added that the Philippines could keep rates unchanged through the second quarter of next year if US rates remained unchanged until the end of the first quarter. The Philippines' overnight borrowing rate is at a 10-year low of 7 percent while the lending rate is at 9.25 percent.

"We can afford to overshoot the deficit target by 10 to 20 percent from the monetary standpoint, meaning we can keep interest rates steady and we don't have to react to it. But I think it would hurt the perception," said the central bank chief.

The government is hard-pressed to meet its P130-billion deficit target this year after the first five-month fiscal gap swelled to P107.54 billion or 83 percent of the full-year forecast.

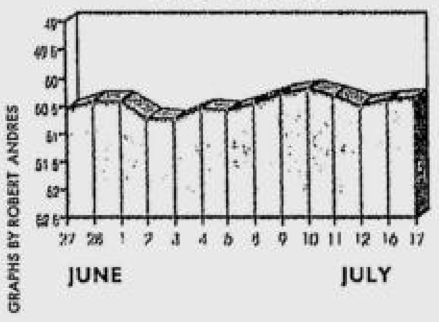
The central bank governor added that it was important for the economic team to meet

LOW/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 50.36 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 17, 2002

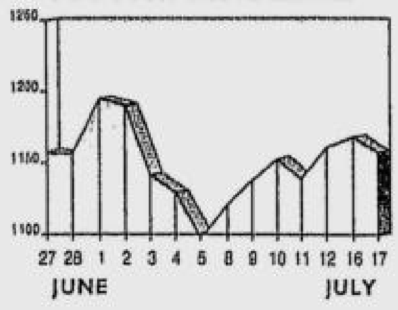
¥ 115.22 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 17, 2002

GOLD: $317.40/317.90

per ounce Hong Kong, July 17, 2002

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 1% lower

SHARES shed one percent yesterday on continued profit-taking amid losses on Wall Street, brokers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index dropped 11.39 points to 1,157.34.

Turnover reached 355.66 million shares worth P390.32 million from Tuesday's 136.5 million shares worth P288.13 million.

"This is due to the drop in the Dow and on profit-taking," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities, adding the thin volume meant "the market didn't have enough buying power" for a rally.

Ayala Land Inc. shed 10 centavos to P5.80 while parent Ayala Corp. also lost 10 centavos to P5.60. *AFP*

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Diplomat meal

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IN the business community, they concede that the rather frank US Ambassador Frank Ricciardone is correct. Corruption exists in this country. Oh, yeah, since when?

Anyway, none of my contacts in business is willing to grant that corruption does not exist in the United States. For where did we learn how to do it?

All right, a man like Ricciardone must do what he has to do. The United States has a lot of interests in the Philippines, both in war and in peace.

Our population of 80 million is equal to a third of that of the whole United States. This country must be a huge market for US products.

Surely, as head of the US mission here, Ricciardone cannot help but take up the cudgels for US companies, such as Ford Motor, in pressuring our government.

Ford Motor wants to export cars from out of the Philippines. To do that, Ford Motor had to import cars from Taiwan for sale in the Philippines. Nice try!

Thus, I can understand why Ricciardone cannot control himself. He must attack his host country. After all, he only wants to see this country prosper. I can almost cry.

* * *

PERHAPS there is a new thinking among the IMF, the World Bank, and other international financial institutions controlled by the United States.

And that is, the Philippines can only prosper, if it continues to allow US companies, such as drug companies, to make a lot of money here by robbing us blind.

After all, not everybody in the United States is honest. Raul Concepcion, chair of the Federation of Philippine Industries, for instance, points at recent US corporate scandals.

Involved in those scandals, Concepcion notes, are even tremendous amounts of hundreds of billions of dollars of lifetime savings of the poor stockholders.

Dishonesty is not exactly a monopoly of the Philippines, which the United States only wants to prosper, such as by imposing on us the US "open skies" policy, so that US airlines can feast on our eight million OFWs.

Yet the Philippine ambassador in Washington, Albert del Rosario, can never speak to foreign media to denounce corruption in the United States.

Those bad US corporations, I'm sure, have Filipino stockholders. Let's see Del Rosario complain to media about it.

* * *

NOBODY can say, however, if all US ambassadors all over the world got instructions directly from Washington to attack their host countries as part of US world diplomacy.

I don't know if they take attacks against their host countries, before international media at that, for lunch. What's that—diplomat meal?

I only know that, in some parts of the world, even in this part of Asia up to today, except in the Philippines, they throw stones and s—t at US embassies.

Whether Ricciardone likes it nor not, there are still people in this world who, for whatever reason, just don't like the United States, period.

In the Philippines, with our colonial history and all that, any issue involving the United States is always an emotional thing. There's this issue as recent as Balikatan.

Thus, when the US ambassador talks like he thinks this country is Puerto Rico or Guam, it's like he is inviting attacks from those people.

Wrong or right, in the past, people would take to the streets, and call the United States all sorts of names, for far less insults like low rental on the US bases here.

I'm sure Ricciardone does not mean to stir up emotions in his host country. After all, he has somebody to ward off the flak intended for him. It's only Gloriaetta herself?

* * *

WE all know that Filipinos, whatever their stature, rich and poor, young and old, get shabby treatment abroad, and that is, wherever they are, not just from US immigration.

But the year's most outstanding performance of rudeness to a Filipino goes to the Dubai-based airline Emirates!

A local bank executive, on board an Emirates flight on the way home, wrote about his sad experience to our ambassador to Dubai, Amable Aguiluz.

It seems the guy, tired and wanting to sleep, was trying to recline his seat, but the passenger at his back did not allow him. The passenger was a . . . well, Caucasian.

The banker asked the Caucasian, politely, according to his letter to Aguiluz, for some room to adjust the banker's seat. It was like talking to a god.

Thus, sensing the god would not budge, the poor banker asked the flight attendants for help. The stewardesses also failed, being mere mortals.

* * *

ENTER the super cock, *este*, supervisor of the Emirates flight, a certain Al Mulla, who, like a true diplomat, negotiated with the Filipino banker by badmouthing him.

Al Mulla insisted that the banker was not supposed to recline his seat, claiming that, if he did, the banker would be destroying airline property.

That would have been enough to bully the banker, if not for the fact that the airplane seat was designed to do precisely just that—to be reclined.

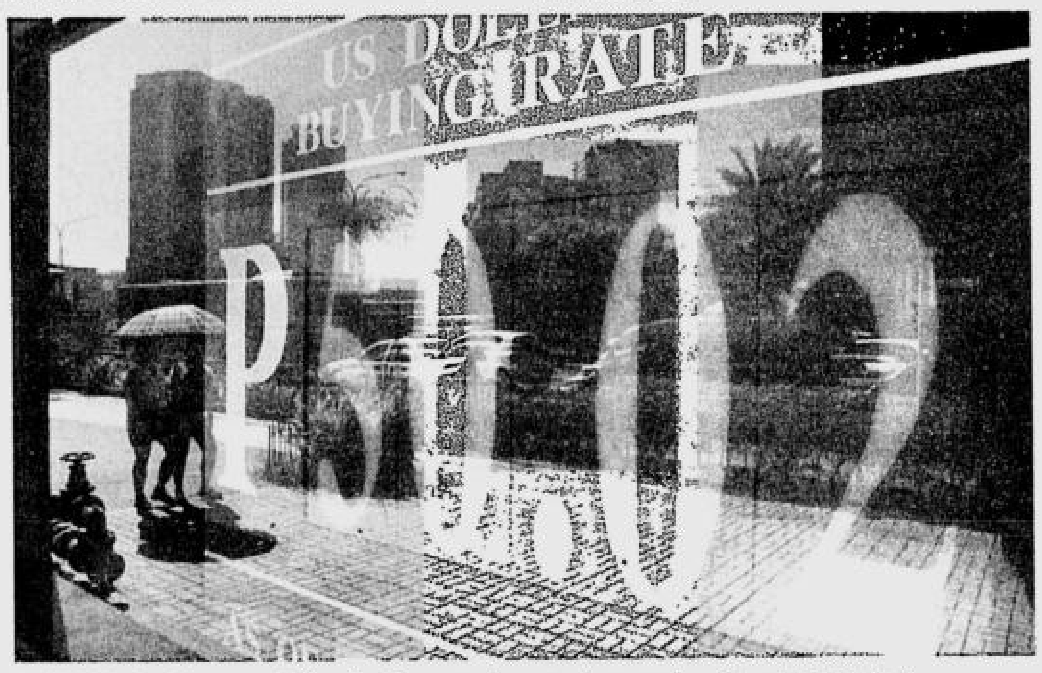
The well-trained Al Mulla, who probably underwent long hours of lecture on common courtesy, grabbed the Filipino banker and threatened him arrest by the pilot.

Unfortunately, the banker had a bad heart, and his blood pressure started to climb. He popped some pills, but his hypertensive attack continued.

A checkup at the Makati Medical Center later, the banker found out he could have suffered a stroke on board that Emirates flight. He could have died.

Now, his lawyer therefore wrote the airline for an explanation. Its customer affairs representative answered that the banker "behaved inappropriately," and that the Emirates crew "behaved reasonably and appropriately."

I don't know if that's how Emirates treat passengers—its customers. I only know that the poor banker is going to remember Al Mulla, the next time he buys a ticket. Wouldn't you?



A LOCAL bank's peso-dollar buying rate is posted on a glass façade in Makati. Following the weakening of the US greenback in the volatile currency market amid reverberations of yet another US accounting scandal, the local currency has remained stable while the yen and other major regional currencies have strengthened. AFP

Union Cement, Alsons unit in ₱1.4-B share-swap deal

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHINMA-CONTROLLED Union Cement Corp., the biggest cement conglomerate in the Philippines, is set to acquire an 88-percent stake in Alsons Cement Corp. through a share-swap agreement worth about P1.14 billion, a deal seen to trigger another round of consolidation in the cement industry.

The impending merger as a result of the acquisition by UCC of Alsons did not surprise the market as the two companies have a common foreign strategic partner in Dutch cement giant Holcim group.

The consolidation is meant to solidify the group's lead against local and foreign competitors, especially with the merger between Blue Circle Plc. and La Farge SA which is likewise expected to result in the consolidation of local rivals.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, UCC said it would acquire the controlling stake in Alsons from Cemco Holdings Inc. through the issuance of new shares at the ratio of one UCC share for every 3.7 shares of Alsons.

"The proposed transaction is a win-win for both UCC and Alsons Cement shareholders as each group is expected to enjoy a significant uplift in shareholder value as a result of the transaction," UCC vice chair Oscar Hilado said in a statement.

"We expect to be able to successfully leverage our significant market share in order to further reduce costs and improve operating and marketing strategies," Hilado said.

There will be a tender offer to minority shareholders at the same share-swap ratio with an option to accept cash at the price of 28 centavos per share in lieu of UCC shares, representing a premium of 86.7 percent over market price.

UCC, whose financial adviser is ING Baring, will issue 1.097 billion shares as a consideration for 4.06 billion Alsons shares.

The transaction is conditional upon approval by the shareholders of UCC on the issuance of new shares and one-time denial of pre-emptive rights during a special stockholders' meeting scheduled on Sept. 4, as well the receipt of all approval from creditors, the PSE and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

UCC is majority owned by Union Cement Holdings Corp., a joint venture between Holcim and local partner Bacnotan Consolidated Industries.

UCC, which operates three cement plants in Northern and Central Luzon and one in Mindanao, has a market share of about 22 percent of the local cement market and a total cement capacity of 5.5 million tons a year.

Two years ago, UCC was formed following a three-way merger between Hi Cement Corp., Davao Union Cement Corp. and Bacnotan Cement Corp. It is one of several companies under the management control of Philippine Investment-Management (Phinma) Inc.

Alsons Cement is part of the Alcantara group of companies, which also has interests in power, property, gas distribution and plywood businesses.

GG & A Club Shares

SEC License Broker #007575 * As of July 18, 2002

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,550,000	1,600,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	2,000,000
Baguio Country Club	700,000	740,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	75,000	85,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	110,000
Camp John Hay	240,000	Please Call
Canlubang	500,000	600,000
Canyonwoods	Please Call	200,000
Capitol Hills	-	115,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	180,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	-	200,000
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	210,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	210,000	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	250,000	260,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	250,000	300,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	225,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	14,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,000,000	14,000,000
Manila Polo	2,800,000	2,850,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	650,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	740,000	800,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	120,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	150,000
Montemar (Individual)	30,000	40,000
Montemar (Corp)	50,000	-
Mt. Malarayat (Corporate)	500,000	550,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	350,000	450,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	100,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,625,000	1,700,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	2,100,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	400,000	450,000
Tagaytay Highlands	820,000	875,000
Tagaytay Midlands	800,000	-
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	-	170,000
Valle Verde (Corporate)	-	330,000
Valley Golf	280,000	-
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,875,000	7,300,000

PLAYING RIGHTS (Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	25,000	Mimosa Golf	25,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	60,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

For more information, please call:
MAKATI 840-1761 • Fax 894-3021 / 750-7894
ALABANG 850-8223 • Fax 772-1817
or e-mail at: ggashare@mozcom.com
Penthouse, Pacific Star Bldg., Sen Gil Puyat cor. Makati Ave., Makati City

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NOTICE

The SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
and the ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
are co-sponsoring a

SEMINAR ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
for Directors of Listed Companies

on Friday, 2 August 2002, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel.

Participation in the seminar will be on a
"first-come, first-served" basis.
Only 140 slots are available.

Interested parties must signify their intention
to participate in writing to the
Corporation Finance Department
of the SEC not later than July 25, 2002.
For further details, please check the SEC website at
www.sec.gov.ph

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, July 17, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.5	17.25	17.25	26,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49.5	51	49.5	50	381,300
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28	29	28	28.5	86,800
First E-Bank Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	50,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34	33	33.5	460,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	19	19.25	19	19.25	30,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1290	1290	1290	1290	360
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1000	1000	990	990	880
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23.5	23.75	23.5	23.5	56,700
Diversified Fin. Network	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	110,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.63	0.67	0.63	0.67	23,650,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	540	550	535	545	9,820
ISM Communications Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.03	3,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3	3	2.95	2.95	73,000
Piltel	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	110,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	322.5	327.5	320	325	123,060
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	32,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	1,100
Manila Electric Co. B	28	29	28	28.5	965,500
Petron Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.74	1.76	1,002,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.76	1.78	64,492,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.44	2.44	2.4	2.42	394,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	30,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	3,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	2,400
Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	16	16	16	16	53,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32.5	33	32.5	32.5	208,200
RFM Corp.	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.98	340,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	1,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47	47	47	47	15,100
San Miguel Corp. B	53.5	53.5	53	53	44,600
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,800
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	20,000
Ayala Corp.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.6	479,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.3	2.36	2.3	2.36	5,110,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.27	830,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	200,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.33	3,300,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.2	0.17	0.175	1,750,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	629,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	15	15	14.75	14.75	599,400
Ionics Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.9	5.9	23,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.48	1.52	1.48	1.52	227,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	550,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,500,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.69	0.7	0.69	0.69	170,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	2,860,000
Music Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	420,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	580,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.86	0.87	0.86	0.87	140,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	40,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	5,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	200,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,360,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.47	0.46	0.47	570,000
Manila Jockey Club	10	10	10	10	7,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	170,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24	24	23.75	23.75	430,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series H	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10	10	10	10	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.8	6,955,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	10,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	100,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.185	0.185	3,300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.205	0.2	0.2	3,480,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.22	3,062,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	40,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	600,000
SM Development Corp.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.5	5.5	7,349,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.039	0.039	0.039	0.039	1,000,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	670,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	3,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	22,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	8,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	2,900,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	139,000,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	2,600,000

CURRENCIES

July 17, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	0.988142	1.000000	50.3370
Japan	Yen	0.008539	0.008641	0.4350
United Kingdom	Pound	1.557609	1.576300	79.3462
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.126687	0.128207	6.4536
Switzerland	Franc	0.681948	0.690131	34.7391
Canada	Dollar	0.643154	0.650872	32.7629
Singapore	Dollar	0.568486	0.575308	28.9593
Australia	Dollar	0.552652	0.559284	28.1527
Bahrain	Dinar	2.621207	2.652661	133.5270
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.263505	0.266667	13.4232
Brunei	Dollar	0.566595	0.573394	28.8629
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000110	0.000111	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.024477	0.024771	1.2469
UAE	Dirham	0.269050	0.272279	13.7057
Korea	Won	0.000854	0.000864	0.0435
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.012000	50.9410
Argentina	Real	0.276018	0.279330	14.0606
Brazil	Real	0.343702	0.347826	17.5085
Denmark	Kroner	0.134143	0.135753	6.8334
India	Rupee	0.020278	0.020521	1.0330
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.260072	0.263193	13.2483
Mexico	New Peso	0.102250	0.103477	5.2087
New Zealand	Dollar	0.480637	0.486405	24.4842
Norway	Kroner	0.135455	0.137080	6.9002
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016602	0.016801	0.8457
South Africa	Rand	0.098011	0.099187	4.9928
Sweden	Kroner	0.107194	0.108480	5.4606
Syria	Pound	0.019224	0.019455	0.9793
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030035	0.030395	1.5300
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000751	0.000760	0.0383

Low interest . . .

From page B1

the deficit target because of the bad signal that it would give foreign investors and creditors if the gap would exceed the target.

Foreign analysts and economists as well as local business leaders have expressed dismay with the five-month deficit trend. Last year, the budget deficit reached P147 billion against a target of P145 billion while in 2003, the target of P99 billion would be increased to P120 billion.

The government must bring down the deficit to zero by 2006 to meet its medium-term economic commitments.

Buenaventura said the US Federal Reserve Board, based on indications, would delay any plan to raise interest rates in the United States until the first quarter of 2003.

He pointed to a favorable inflation trend and an estimated full-year average of 3.5 to 3.8 percent as a factor that would support the Monetary Board's resolve to keep the BSP's overnight rates steady.

While he ruled out any rate hike this year, Buenaventura also discounted any cut in the rates from their current 10-year lows.

PDAF seeks win-win solution to Mile Long issue

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SUNVAR Realty Development Corp., which is leasing and subleasing the Mile Long commercial complex in Makati, said yesterday it had already paid for the second 25 years of its lease contract with the Philippine Development Alternatives Foundation since their agreement provided for an automatic renewal of the lease.

"We paid P16.8 million between 1980 and 1985 for the lease of the 2.2-hectare strip of land which we now call Mile Long," Sunvar Realty president Carlos Rufino said in an interview.

The property is owned by National Power Corp. but was leased to PDAF, formerly Technology Resource Center. PDAF leased the property to Sunvar.

Rufino said that originally, Sunvar wanted to lease only the portion of the strip behind the Makati Cinema Square, which it was planning to develop into an additional parking space for the cineplex.

"But we were told that we had to lease the entire strip," he said.

Rufino also stressed that the P16.8 million was paid between 1980 and 1985.

"We were not and neither are we paying just P1 per square meter per year," Rufino said. "I can't see why we are being pictured as trying to get away with a rip-off."

The contract between Sunvar and PDAF, requires Sunvar to forward to the government the P1-per-square-meter rent which forms part of Sunvar's payments to the foundation.

"Aside from that, we had to invest about P100 million for development works in Mile Long since we acquired it as raw land," Rufino said.

He said Sunvar paid for the construction of an access road, and the setting up of the drainage, water and electricity lines. "We built the place from scratch."

Rufino said there were now at least 300 leaseholders, including bars, restaurants and fast-food stores, in the commercial complex.

"We will continue talking with PDAF so that (Napocor) will recognize our contract," he said. "We must protect our leaseholders who located in Mile Long on the assumption that they can stay there for another 25 years."

In a telephone interview, PDAF chair Agnes Devanadera said the foundation could not renew its lease contract since the government's decision was "already final."

"What we can do is to try to find a win-win solution," Devanadera said. "But it would be disadvantageous to the government if the rate stays at P1."

The 2.2-hectare Mile Long strip forms part of the properties that National Power Corp. is planning to privatize.

Napocor, the other day, said it would not renew the lease contract for parcels of prime land in Makati which would be privatized along with its generation and transmission assets.

The other Napocor assets for privatization include the parcels of land now occupied by Ecology Village, the Makati Fire Station, Makati Central Post Office and a nearby vacant lot all in Makati.

US ENVOY VISITS MAK-BAN

Melchor Ballestero, NPC Mak-Ban operations manager, briefs US Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone (3rd from left) and his party on the centralized control panel of NPC Plan A during a familiarization tour of the Mak-Ban geothermal complex. The steam field side of the Mak-Ban operations is managed by Philippine Geothermal Inc. (PGI), a subsidiary of US energy independent Unocal. National Power Corp. owns and operates the power plants. The US ambassador recently visited Mak-Ban to learn the rudiments of geothermal resource development for electricity production. With him during the briefing were (from left): Virgilio Navarro, NPC Mak-Ban group manager; Marie Ricciardone, the ambassador's wife, and their daughter Chiara; Val Huston, US-FCS commercial officer; Dan Martinez, US-FCS deputy economic counselor, and Cleo Alday, US-FCS commercial specialist.

SPAV bill OK seen to cut banking sector's bad loans

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANKS' bad loans ratio to total loan portfolio is hoped to substantially drop to 8 percent, from the current 18.43 percent, a year after the enactment of a legislation providing incentives to so-called special purpose asset vehicles or SPAVs.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura made the projection yesterday amid expectations that Congress would finally act favorably on the SPAV bills once the session resumes on July 22.

"I would like to see the non-performing loans ratio drop to 8 to 9 percent in 12 months from the passage of the SPAV law," said the BSP chief.

At the same time, he said bank loans should improve by about 10 percent from a continuing contraction in the first four months of the year.

A SPAV, also known as an asset management company, is a group that will buy the banks' bad assets and loans at huge discounts. It sells the assets at better prices and collects the loans at higher rates.

Based on the bills in both houses of Congress, the banks will be given two years to sell the soured loans and assets to the SPAV. In turn, the SPAV should find a buyer for the property or collect the loans within five years.

The main incentives given to SPAVs include the exemption from payment of documentary stamp and capital gains taxes. These incentives, however, will be applied only when an asset is sold.

A longer net operating loss carryover, that will allow banks to deduct losses incurred in earlier years of operations from payable taxes in the future, is also being pushed by the banks.

Banks also want a provision that will allow them to own at least 30 percent of a SPAV. Such an arrangement will allow the banks a share in the earnings from the disposal of the assets and the collection of the loans.

With the SPAV law, Buenaventura is hoping that banks will be induced to be more aggressive in extending new loans to compliment the gradual decline in bad accounts.

As of May, the NPL ratio of banks to their total loan portfolio rose to 18.43 percent from 18.23 percent of total loans in April.

The bad loans as of May went up by P4.2 billion to P305.459 billion.

8th CEP - Real Estate Lecture Series
at Joni's Bakeshop, Pasay Rd, Makati City 1 30 to 6 00PM
Aug 3: Real Estate Finance and Investment Analysis
Aug 10: Property Development & HLURB Rules w/updates
Aug 17: Joint Venture & Syndication for Realty Projects
Aug 24: Start your own Realty Office; Real Estate Taxation
Aug 31: Realty Appraisal and Property Management
Sept 7: Documentations and Legal Aspects of Real Estate
Call 681-0928 or email: urbanet@pacific.net.ph

Public warned against dealing with illegal lending investors

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission yesterday warned the public against dealing with 12 corporations that were found illegally engaged in investment consultancy, investment taking, lending and trading.

In an advisory, the SEC identified these corporations as Access Credit and Development Group, AVG Group of Companies, MMC Investment and Finance Corp., Multitel Investment Corp., Multitel Investors Corp., Multitel Lending Corp., Phil-Asia Lending Investors Inc. and Zurich.

The SEC said these groups were not registered and therefore did not have the juridical personality or authority to engage in activities such as investment consultancy, investment taking, lending activities and trading.

The SEC also warned the public that AVG Lending Investors Inc., BGA Lending Investors Inc., Coin's Account Lending Services Inc. and Red Dragon Lending Corp. did not have the necessary secondary franchise to operate as lending investors.

"The public is warned of possible serious misrepresentations by these corporations," the SEC said.

The SEC has been cracking down on companies involved in dubious financial schemes and those engaged in taking placements or investments from the public without authority from the commission.

The SEC earlier set up a hotline for inquiries from the public about the legitimacy of certain companies or groups and their operations. The hotline numbers are 725-8260 and 725-34-18. The public will be answered by lawyers Adolfo Gonzales and Sarah Crespillo of the SEC's office of the general counsel during office hours.

SEC officials said that if there were any doubts on whether a company was operating legally, the public could check through the hotline. They said the public could also be alerted when a company in question was under SEC investigation.

We are pleased to announce that raffle numbers of qualified HOPE depositors corresponding to their average daily cleared balances (ADCBs) for the month of June 2002 are now available for verification at their respective branches.

The third quarterly draw covering raffle numbers issued from April to June 2002 is scheduled for July 26, 2002. At stake are an IBM ThinkPad I Series Laptop, a Nokia 8850 Cell Phone, a Palm Pilot M505 and forty (40) 1st e-Bank gift certificates at P1,000.00 each.

1st Bank

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Globe offers multimedia messaging service

AYALA-OWNED Globe Telecom Inc. has launched the country's first commercial multimedia messaging service (MMS), which allows mobile phone users to send and receive real audio and picture messages, aside from the conventional text messages.

Unlike the popular short messaging service (SMS) or text messaging, MMS messages can include photos, animation, speech and audio files downloaded to the mobile phone from wireless application protocol (WAP) sites.

Globe's initial set of MMS service applications include Traffic-Cam, which allows subscribers to view real-time pictures of actual road traffic; Animated-Messages, which allows the sending and receiving of Disney pictures and melodies; and Photo-Messages, which allows transmission of full-color pictures and sound. More services will be added to the list in the coming weeks, the company said.

The new services are initially available free of charge to postpaid plan subscribers up to Aug. 31.

For the new MMS services, Globe will be using Ericsson's T68i handsets, which are now available nationwide. Nokia will soon deliver its MMS-capable 7650 and 3510 handsets, with other handset manufacturers expected to follow suit.

Abigail L. Ho

Petron Corporation
Petron MegaPlaza
358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING
July 29, 2002

Please be notified that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Petron Corporation will be held on **July 29, 2002**, Monday at 9:00 AM at the Ballroom, Second Floor of Manila Midtown Hotel, Pedro Gil corner Adriatico Streets, Ermita, Manila, with the following Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Report on Attendance and Quorum
3. Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Stockholders' Meeting
4. Management Report to Stockholders for the year 2001
5. Ratification of all acts of the Board of Directors and Management during the year 2001
6. Appointment of Independent Auditor
7. Election of Board of Directors for the ensuing term
8. Such other business as may properly come before it.

Minutes of the last Annual Stockholders' Meeting on **July 30, 2001** will be distributed during registration.

The Board of Directors has fixed **June 6, 2002** as the record date to determine the stockholders entitled to notice and to vote at said annual meeting.

Please bring your Notice/Stockholders Identification Slip and any form of identification, i.e., Driver's License; Company ID, TIN Card; etc, to facilitate registration. Registration starts at 7:00 AM. and closes at exactly 8:30 AM. The meeting is expected to end at 11:00 AM.

LIBERADOR V. VILLEGAS
Corporate Secretary

blah
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blah
blah
blah
blah
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Eliminate Baldness.

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BINONDO 243-0128 244-8913
ALABANG 842-1389 842-4161
CEBU 032-2340851 032-2340853

MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

BSP sees hurdles to RP exit from dirty money watchlist

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE PHILIPPINES faces difficulties in getting removed from a blacklist of money laundering havens because Congress is reluctant to relax the bank secrecy law, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said yesterday.

Buenaventura said the country risked possible sanctions from the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force, which dismissed the Philippine anti-money laundering law passed last year as "not good enough."

Buenaventura said the current law was "a major problem that needs to be addressed."

"I would not want to imagine the consequences if we fail to pass the test of the FATF."

He said the FATF, set up by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to combat money laundering, told the Macapagal administration that the law's P4-million threshold on accounts that could be investigated was "too high."

"Secondly, they feel that our Bank Secrecy Act, although already liberalized, still has its shortcomings and, therefore, it's the reason that they decided not to lift us from the list of non-cooperative countries."

"This is what they are saying to us. We have a choice. We can amend or we can say this is the best that we can do and be prepared to face the consequences."

Buenaventura said he did not see major opposition to lowering the threshold to allow regulators to check accounts worth as little as $10,000. But persuading Congress to further relax restrictions on confidentiality of accounts "will be a little bit more difficult."

He said there was a fear that relaxing these restrictions could be abused by regulators, either through "shakedowns" or by tipping off kidnappers.

"That will take some doing: to find a language that will be acceptable to the FATF and workable so that you can combat money laundering effectively without infringing on the confidentiality" of legitimate accounts, he said.

With a report from AFP

A WOMAN carries her son while begging on a street in Manila. About 1.8 million households in the Philippines—or about 9 million people—had gone to bed without having anything to eat at least once this year, according to a survey by the Social Weather Stations released over the weekend. Forty percent of the Philippine population of 80 million are considered poor. AFP

NDC sets 'packaged' sale of ₱6B in properties

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE NATIONAL Development Co. is braving the real estate depression, as it goes to the market to sell 25 parcels of land worth over P6 billion, including the 18-hectare Goodyear property in Las Piñas.

In a statement released yesterday, NDC general manager Ofelia Bulaong said the property sale should attract strong interests from investors with a sharp eye on opportunities amid the real estate crisis.

Bulaong said the NDC could go into a negotiated sale with prospective buyers because the properties involved had already gone through several failed auctions.

"Property Series 2002" is the first in a series of packaged property sales that the NDC is planning to liquidate its assets and address its financial problems.

NDC's strategy is to put these properties exhibit-style in a gathering of top businessmen on July 23 at the Manila Golf Club.

The first batch of NDC properties for sale is spearheaded by the sprawling property of Goodyear Philippines Inc. at the Alabang-Zapote Road in Las Piñas.

The property was estimated to have a value of P4.5 billion, or 75 percent of the projected haul from the sale of NDC's properties.

An NDC official said the lease on the Goodyear property expired two years ago.

The NDC and the US tire maker apparently did not come to terms on a renewal.

The government has offered to maintain the lease rates as long as Goodyear, which occupies only a third of the property, develops the rest of the property into an industrial park.

Bulaong said the NDC was offering a wide array of real estate assets suitable for industrial estate development, shopping malls, housing, high-rise buildings and gasoline or service stations.

Businessmen buck plan to make them guarantee SSS loans

BUSINESSMEN are up in arms over the Social Security System's plan mandating employers to guarantee the pension fund loans of their employees and making them liable for their workers' unpaid dues.

The SSS issued in April a circular requiring an employer to be the co-maker for a salary loan of an employed member-applicant.

The same order also required employers to be liable for the payment of the outstanding balance of their employees' SSS loans.

Federation of Philippine Industries chair Meneleo Carlos said it was unfair for the SSS to force employers to be co-makers of the SSS loans because they could be blamed by their employees should they choose not to back up their loan applications.

"We are being made to be scapegoats by the SSS for the failure to grant loans," Carlos said.

He noted that SSS members were only borrowing money from their own contributions, and that there was no need for any guarantor on their loans.

Carlos said employees should not be made liable for the unpaid loans of their employees because they had no control on whether they resign or transfer to other firms.

He added that this provision would make it doubly hard for employers to let go of erring employees due to the additional burden on shouldering their unpaid dues.

"An employer should not be made liable to pay the outstanding balance of the loan should the employee-borrower transfer or resign from the company since the loan is an employee's personal decision to avail of his or her entitlement as a member," Carlos said.

"The outstanding balance of the loan can be deducted from the total benefits due to the employee upon retirement," he added.

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Pacific Internet, DigitelOne sign equipment supply deal

By Abigail L. Ho

PACIFIC Internet Philippines has signed an agreement with data communications and Internet firm DigitelOne to augment its capabilities as an Internet service provider.

Pacific Internet renewed its existing dedicated Internet circuits and ordered additional international and domestic circuits from DigitelOne.

"We are very proud to have Pacific Internet as a customer and as an ally. Pacific's continued business with us is a trust we take very seriously. We look forward to servicing the new requirements Pacific has, as well as any more they may give us in the future," DigitelOne managing director Brian Go said in a statement yesterday.

Pacific Internet Philippines was formed in 1997 through a joint venture between Primeworld Digital Systems Inc. and Pacific Internet Singapore.

Since then, one of the country's biggest ISPs has grown and expanded by being the first to completely migrate to the V.90 56K modem standard and to publicly provide integrated services data network with telecom giants Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Globe Telecom Inc.

It is also the first ISP in the Philippines to use Post.Office, a commercial Internet mail software that major ISPs in the United States use.

DigitelOne, Internet unit of Digitel Telecommunications Philippines Inc., offers Internet and videoconferencing services for the whole of Luzon.

It will soon offer services to Visayas and Mindanao.

Meralco sees profit drop

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE MANILA Electric Co. said yesterday its financial performance in the first semester probably slipped by half compared to the previous year despite a slight improvement in its second-quarter results.

Meralco senior assistant vice president Antonio Valera said the utility could have improved its performance if only it had been given permission to increase its rates.

Valera made the statements before the Energy Regulatory Commission when he testified in a hearing on Meralco's petition for increases in its rates.

"I don't know the exact amount, but (Meralco's net income is) definitely going to be down," Valera said.

He added that apart from Meralco's inability to increase its rates, the slowdown in the local economy also contributed to the expected decline of the firm's income.

Earlier this year, Meralco posted a P73-million net loss in the first quarter mainly due to the same reasons.

Valera said figures for the second quarter "may have slightly improved" because of a parallel in electricity sales during the hot summer months.

PT&T expands 'Click and Call' Internet centers

THE PHILIPPINE Telegraph & Telephone Corp. has expanded its "Click and Call" business by opening two new branches in Davao, bringing its network size to 18 branches.

PT&T's Click and Call centers are "e-stations" that offer traditional communication and Internet and other computer services.

Services include outgoing long distance calls, fax grams, telegrams, Web surfing, network gaming, online chat, PC rental and printing.

In an earlier interview, PT&T marketing head Bryan Santiago said the company had already spent between P20 million and P30 million for its existing branches in Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao and Baguio.

Other branches will be franchised to interested investors, with investment for each franchise ranging from P700,000 to P2 million, he said.

The cost depends on the location and size of the center, he added.

In December last year, PT&T disclosed in its stockholders meeting that its Click and Call venture was estimated to cost some P461 million over a 10-year period.

Earnings over 10 years were estimated at around P2.4 billion.

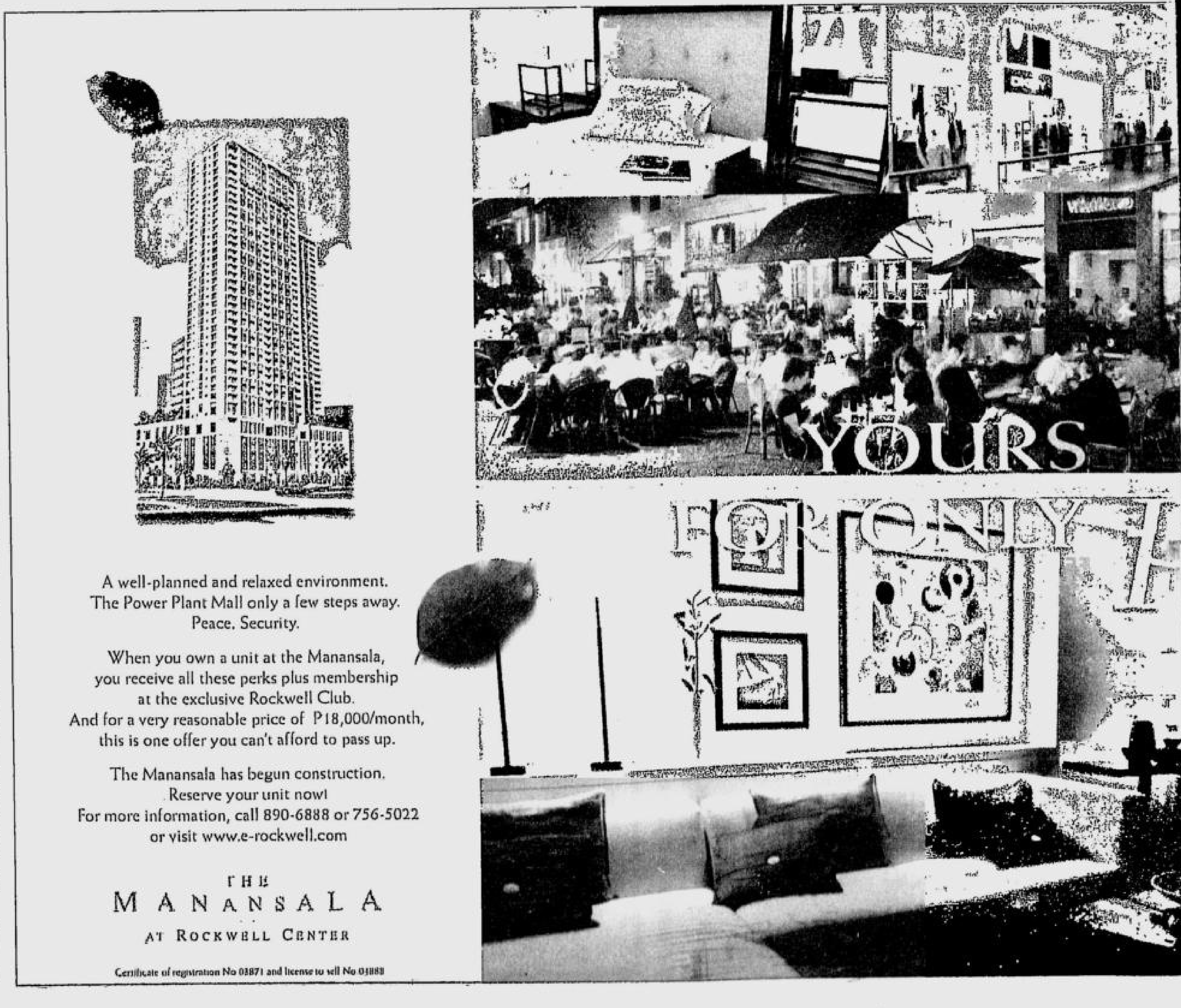
The modernization of the calling and computer stations will be funded through short-term financing worth about P13 million.

Santiago disclosed that PT&T's existing Click and Call centers were already reaching "breakeven point," and that profitability was expected by next year.

"We've experienced better-than-expected market demand for our Click and Call centers. That's why we've been opening new ones at the rate of more than one per month in the last 16 months alone. That demand continues to grow and we're doing our best to identify appropriate sites for more centers," Click and Call group product manager Anna Marie Chan said.

The new Click and Call branch in Digos, Davao, houses 24 workstations, while the other Davao branch has 23 workstations.

Abigail L. Ho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US economy wounded but resilient, says Fed

WASHINGTON—The US economy is resilient but needs time to heal after a barrage of corporate scandals and stock market losses, Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan said on Tuesday, signaling that interest rates will stay at four-decade lows for now.

During his testimony, Greenspan did warn repeatedly that wounds from the accounting scandals, stock market slide and the Sept. 11 attacks would be lasting.

"While the economy has held up remarkably well, not surprisingly the depressing effects of recent events linger," the Fed chief told the Senate panel.

But he did emphasize that the economy was getting better.

"All the evidence that we have been able to accumulate in recent weeks suggests that the economy is improving," he said later during questioning by lawmakers. "It's pretty much in line with our expectations."

On the issue of the multibillion-dollar accounting errors of corporations that have rocked financial markets for months, the influential Fed chair was sharply critical, accusing executives of trying to "harvest" stock market gains.

"An infectious greed seemed to grip much of our business community," Greenspan said, warning that the economy could not achieve its full potential should investors lose faith in the rules that governed companies and markets.

Greenspan also urged the Bush administration and Congress to curb spending, cautioning that fiscal discipline—critical to sustained economic growth—had eroded.

"I think that we can curtail spending far more than we do," he said. "The best way in which the economy can function is to hold spending down and get as low a tax base as you can to enable the economy to expand as rapidly as you can."

Wall Street analysts agreed that the Fed chief's underlying message was that the economy was indeed set for recovery, taking heart from the fact that the Fed raised forecasts in its Monetary Policy report accompanying the testimony.

Fed policymakers had better projections for economic growth in 2002 than they did earlier this year. *Reuters*

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BOJ raises economic assessment

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan upgraded its economic assessment for a fifth straight month on Wednesday, defying mounting concerns that the yen's recent steep rise could derail Japan's export-led recovery.

In a decision widely expected—not without some sarcasm—by economists, the BOJ cited strong exports and output, as well as improving corporate earnings and sentiment, as factors behind the revision in its latest monthly report.

The report said: "Japan's economy, despite continued weakness in domestic demand, has almost stabilized as a whole with an increasing upward impetus from exports and production and an improvement in corporate profits and business sentiment."

The report comes a day after the central bank's Policy Board left monetary policy unchanged for the seventh consecutive meeting and US Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan expressed his guarded optimism over the improving health of the US economy.

But it also comes on the heels of the yen's rise to 17-month highs around 115.50 against the dollar this week, which clouds the outlook for the export-reliant Japanese economy and is sure to anger critics of the BOJ who have urged further monetary easing.

"They are correct to say economic indicators in recent months had been improving. They are also right in expressing concern about volatility in the currency and stock markets," said Yasushi Okada, an economist at CS First Boston Securities (Japan) Ltd.

"But the problem is: How is this going to be reflected in monetary policy? It's difficult to understand how they can justify their sit-and-wait policy."

The yen's rise against the dollar to above levels hit in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks has raised concerns about whether Japan's export-driven recovery this year can be sustained—particularly as both the BOJ's monetary policy and the government's fiscal policy appear to be reaching their limits.

Yen strength has weighed on sentiment in the stock market, since it eats into exporters' overseas profits in yen terms and makes exports more expensive, threatening to nip Japan's economic recovery in the bud. *Reuters*

Singapore consumer confidence down

SINGAPORE—Singaporeans' confidence that the economy will recover has plummeted, with growing numbers pessimistic about their financial position and the job market, according to a survey released Wednesday.

The black mood has been further fuelled by a sense that prices are likely to rise before the economic recovery has been confirmed.

The Straits Times quarterly consumer confidence index, taken late last month, was based on a poll of 400 people and focused on the job market, the economy and spending habits.

Since the last survey in March, when there was an air of optimism, Singaporeans have been faced with conflicting signals on the state of the economy and government warnings that unemployment will rise this year.

The waning confidence "is a convergence of continuous negative news flow. The only good thing in June was the World Cup," said GK Goh Research regional economist Song Seng Wun.

A total of 62 percent said prices would go up in the next three months, compared to 28 percent in March.

Only 22 percent saw the economy improving over the same period and 49 percent said the job market would get worse.

The number of people planning an overseas holiday (20 percent), to buy branded goods (5 percent) and to buy a car (one percent) were all markedly down on the previous poll.

The survey was released a day after government economic data showed an unexpected fall in Singapore's key exports for June, tempering recent gross domestic product figures, which showed an economy on the rise.

"On paper, the country seems to be out of recession, but people don't feel it as income has not risen while the unemployment rate is expected to worsen," Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp. economist Suan Teck Kin told the newspaper. *AFP*

18,000
A MONTH

Isuzu to double pickup truck output in Thailand

TOKYO—Japanese truck maker Isuzu Motors Ltd. said Wednesday it planned to virtually double production of pickup trucks in Thailand this month to pre-Asian crisis levels.

The company will make 10,000 pickup trucks a month at its factory near Bangkok by introducing an extra work shift, said Tadashi Ioka, a company spokesman.

"As the Thai economy has started to recover, we are now seeing increasing demand for our pickup trucks," especially Isuzu D-MAX models, which were introduced in May, he said.

The vehicle was developed jointly with Isuzu's largest shareholder, General Motors Corp., he added.

GM holds a 49-percent stake in the Japanese truck maker.

Isuzu will hire more workers at the factory, which currently has a workforce of 1,600 workers, Ioka said, but he could not immediately give a number.

Due to the robust global demand for pickups, Isuzu planned to lift its production target for this calendar year from 50,000 vehicles to 70,000, Ioka added.

In Thailand, more than 50 percent of new auto sales come from pickup trucks. Isuzu maintained a leading 40-percent market share of the market and sold some 66,000 pickups in 2001, Ioka said.

In the mid 1990s, when the Thai economy was booming, Isuzu had two work shifts at its Thai factory and produced about 10,000 vehicles a month.

The bursting of the economic bubble in Thailand during the Asian economic crisis slashed auto demand and forced Isuzu to cut its pickup production to 5,500 vehicles a month, Ioka said.

"With the recent gradual recovery of the Thai economy, we basically decided to do what we used to do," Ioka said *AFP*

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DOG TRAINER 4528681

German Shphrd Pups 3 8996786/09183471321

PHIL. DOG SCHOOL
Tel. 721-3736, 0917-8483181

ROTTWEILER AMBUL HUSKY BOSTON TERRIER PUP4 SALE 939-4390

SPORTING GOODS

22T Pool Sr New Complt 7767507

MISCELLANEOUS

4 Sale Pillow Shrt, Bags Design Spiderman, Scooby, P. Puff, H.Kitty, D.Ball Z, Disney (0916)4213989

4 Sale Pillow Shrt, Bags Design Spiderman, Scooby, P. Puff, H.Kitty, D.Ball Z, Disney (0916)4213989

B/SELL EDUC'L PLAN 8061574

B/SELL FULY PD EDUC PLAN 7800106/0917-7939632

UHF TV STATIONS FOR SALE 7 AREAS 0916-5730004

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

EXPERIENCETAXI DRIVER 6353603

FAMILY DRIVER
single with NBI clearance 269 Sunset Drive Brookside Hills Subd Cainta 6551557

Male Masseur Call 4215996

MESSENGER w/Driver's License
•CALL:821-3676•

FEMALE

MASSAGE THERAPISTS
FOR SPA CENTER
Call 912-3954 • 244-8845

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on 31 July 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
METRO MANILA			
LTY-152	38 Road 7, Project 6, Quezon City	403.7 m^2 residential lot (TCT No. N-234441) with building	P 6,788,300.00
LTY-143	2072 Anonas Street, Sta. Mesa, Manila	300.2 m^2 residential lot (TCT No. 245737)	P 3,602,400.00
MED-58	No. 4 Olive Street, SSS Village, Concepcion, Marikina City	242 m^2 residential lot (TCT No. 316365) with buildings and improvements	P 773,800.00
BATANGAS			
2LAO-08	Bo. Munting Tubig, Ibaan	19,238 m^2 two (2) agri lots (TCT Nos. T-111242 and T-111243) with piggery buildings and improvements	P 6,457,800.00
2LAO-06	Brgy. Pinagkawitan, Lipa City	738 m^2 two (2) residential lots (TCT No. T-133022 and T-132774) with buildings and improvements	P 5,607,200.00
2LAO-05	Along 3.0 meters road - right-of-way at Poblacion 3, Nasugbu	3,827 m^2 interior residential lot (TCT No. T-88931)	P 3,827,000.00
BULACAN			
MED-123	No. 402, Bo. Tangos, Baliwag	240 m^2 residential lot (TCT No. T-128269) with building and improvements	P 371,100.00
CAVITE			
MMC-93a	Along Provincial Road, Bo. Sinaliw, Malaki, Alfonso	768 m^2 residential lot (TCT No. 369067) with buildings and improvements	P 340,200.00
RIZAL			
MGT-121	Jasmine Street, Nieves Hills, Lakeview Subdivision, San Isidro, Angono	248 m^2 residential lot (TCT No. 616234)	P 347,200.00
CHATTELS (Sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)			
LTY-148	Dalaruan, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro	M/V "Super 85", an 85-footer motorized passenger ferry vessel, twin engine, Catamaran type, capable of carrying up to 185 persons with machinery and navigational equipment.	P 20,221,200.00
MBL-165	Back of Manila Film Center, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City	One (1) non-propelled deck-loading barge (partly submerged), all steel welded construction. Gross Tonnage of 3,097 tons.	P 7,574,000.00
LRD 140a-l	Pinatubo Bricks Manufacturing, Bgy. Estrada, Capas, Tarlac	Various brick making machinery and equipment (in dismantled condition)	P 6,900.00 to P126,900.00 per unit
2LAO 07a-k	Brgy. Pinagkawitan, Lipa City	Various chattels for veterinary products manufacturing	P 21,800.00 to P427,500.00 per unit

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:
892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 2128 for Code starting with L;
815-1450 or 818-9511 loc. 2139 for Code starting with M; and
818-9511 loc. 1429 for Code starting with 2LAO.

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – July 17 & 18, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Telefax Nr 421-2327; 911-6001 Loc 6592
bac_secretariat_afpmp@hotmail.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) LOT AFP GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)**, with an approved budget of **Twenty Three Million Forty Thousand Pesos (Php 23,040,000.00)** under the **AFP Modernization Program.**

Only bids from suppliers who are themselves the manufacturers of said equipment shall be entertained.

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting **July 18, 2002** until **August 1, 2002** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City upon payment of **Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00)** which is not refundable. The form of payment will be in cash or cashier's check payable to the AFP.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder authorizing its representative to purchase the bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the bid documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **August 1, 2002 at 2:00 PM (local time)** at the *Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, 1st Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.* Bidders are required to submit their queries in writing to the BAC Secretariat prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Bidders shall be allowed to inspect the existing AFP Communication System and Installations upon purchase of bid documents on a designated schedule as determined by the BAC.

Deadline for submission of Bid Documents (First Stage) is on **August 15, 2002 at 9:00 AM (local time)** and followed by the Opening of Bids at **10:00 AM** at the *Silid Panday Pira, OJ9, First Floor Bulwagang Mabini, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.*

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **NARCISO L ABAYA**
Lieutenant General AFP
Chairman, BAC

(PDI – July 18 & 25, 2002)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

★OFFICE STAFF★
18-45,w/ w/o exp START ASAP
913-4470 Look for Mariel

Bicitan allow comm 1372 Quezon Ave. T-3736692 Gale

FREE CARE GIVER SEMINAR 561-4990 563-8009

HRD Staff 3617687 Mika

HRD STAFF 9134470 GRECO

Office Staff 18-45yrs old w or w/o exp 4370152 Shie

SALES AGENTS BIG BONUS + COMM BRING RESUME NBI AT RM 2623 CITYLAND SHAW BLVD

•Urgent Ofc Personnel 14-45 w/ w/o exp 9134470 Zony

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

URGENT OFC STAFF 4726129 START ASAP DIRECT MILLET

Wanted Sales Agent 4 Agent Baby Item N Juices 8972436

WEB DESIGNER/REPORTER
for Immediate Hiring
VERECOM 510 Cityland
Tower 1 Mkt 813-2647

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

Auction Sale at SANTIAGO PAWNSHOP Pob., Sta Maria, Bulacan on all expired pledges, up to July 31, 2002 on Aug. 10, 2002 8:30 a.m. Atty. Jose L. Sta Ana - Auctioneer

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

BROKERS/AGENTS
Libis QC (PO Box 1504 MCPO 1255 Mkt City)

EARN EXTRA INCOME (02)2443309 / (0916)4486967

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Arlene 8531008 (0917)8901851

Globe 268.50/Smart 268.50 7459351

I MAKE P500,000.00/mo
Needs People To Train
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Sales Commis'ns 364-7559

Supervisors P/F Time 8376068

Train For Success
0917-8371152

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Travel & Earn From Home 6870963 / 0917-5319792

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of LILYBETH OCAMPO VILLARUZ was extrajudicially settled among her heirs per Notary Public ATTY. RAMON B. GATMAYTAN of Mandaluyong, under Doc No 343; Page No. 70; Book No. V; Series of 2002. (July 11, 18, 25, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice of Loss - Lost ACR of IKUKO KOBAYASHI if found pls return to Bureau of Immigration or to BOX 38 SILANG CAVITE
PDI-July 11 & 18, 2002

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
more than just a memorial park
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, 1632
Tel. Number 845-2334 to 38 loc. 109/112;
845-2341 or 845-2342
Sales@heritagepark.com.ph

OBITUARIES

YORK (U.S.A.) CASKETS
... because they deserve only the best.
*For more information, please call your funeral director

I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.

John 14:6

ENGR. DOMINGO B. ASTUDILLO

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on July 15, 2002.

His bereaved wife **Pacita**; children **Edgar** and **Aurea**, **Evelyn** and **Dennis Mate**, **Elnora** and **Edwin Dava**, **Enrico** and **Tina**, **Elito** and **Marichu**, **Emmanuel** (†) and **Lessie**, and **Ephraim**; grandchildren **Andrew** and **Michael**, **Michael** and **Ana**, **Melissa** and **Michael**, **Martin**, **Marcel** and **Alberto**, and **Christine** and **Sir Emmanuel**; great grandchild **Dia**; brothers and sisters and all relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

In Loving Memory of

HACER NACION ORTILE Vda. TING

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 14, 2002 at the age of 72.

Hereby with children and their spouses **Danny** and **Vicky Ting**, **Dr. Edgardo** and **Winnie Ortile**, **Lou** and **Dr. Enrique Sanchez**, **Pacita** and **Dra. Susan Ortile**, grandchildren **Priscilla**, **Pamela**, **Edwin Joseph**, **Laurice** and **Eugene Carlo**, **Kriselle** and **Enrico (Aiki)**, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal rest of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati City from July 15-17, 2002, at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church. Pinaglabanan San Juan, Metro Manila on July 18-20, 2002. A Mass will be offered daily at 8:30 p.m. at the Chapel/Church.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 20, 2002 at Loyola Park, Marikina City after 2:00 p.m., funeral mass at Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
Always caring... INQUIRER OBITUARIES
WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments
OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)
DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

Melodina Toledo Serrano

Commissioner on Training,
Manila Girl Scout Council and
Former Assistant Principal—
Justo Lukban Elementary School

Peacefully joined our Creator
on July 17, 2002 at the age of 72.

Her remains lie in state at
Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels,
Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be on Sunday, July 21, 2002
after the 1:00 a.m. Mass at the
Manila Memorial Park
Sucat, Parañaque.

ALDRIN C. TANAY

(Sept. 5, 1970 - July 15, 2002)

Beloved and caring husband of **Fides Uy Ventura**, dedicated father to **Felicity Anne**, good and loving son to **Atty. Emil Tanay** and **Virgie Castro**, good son-in-law to **Herick** and **Elsa Ventura**, peacefully joined his Creator on Monday, July 15, 2002 at the age of 32.

His **wife** and **daughter**, sisters **Vicky** and **Gerty**, brothers **Alex** and wife **Cristy**, **Emil, Jr.** and wife **Arlene**, **Edwin**, **Alan** and wife **Maan**, sister-in-law **Jazz** and brother-in-law **Hecht**, relatives and friends will always remember him for his deep love for his family and request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Cremation will be on July 19, 2002
after the 11 a.m. Mass.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His Only Begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but will have everlasting life."

(John 3:16)

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City • Tels 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451; 522-2128; (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City • Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
Tels 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City • Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City
Tels. 740-2683; 781-3705; 781-3688; 413-9400; 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City; Tel 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Manugult, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City • Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City • Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila • Tels 642-3010; 633-3602
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas • Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City • Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011
Tels. (044) 764-0281; 678-0266; (0917) 895-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite • Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila • Tels. 642-6181 to 82
HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42; (TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112

HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Sucat, Parañaque City; Tels 825-1296; 825-1291
LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur
Tel. 722-2730; Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145
Manila #23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City; Tel. 434-3258
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua, Manila
Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795; 732-2827
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City;
Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguillan Rd., Baguio City • Tel. (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117
LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite
Tels. (046) 471-3386; (046) 471-4417; (046) 571-1978
LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City • Tels. 895-1011 to 19
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS & CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue, Tañong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3196 to 98; 941-3676; Telefax 941-3577
MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal • Tels. 645-1855; 682-0209; 682-0210
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St., Dagupan City
Tels. (075) 515-5960; 515-6529; 522-8783; (0919) 348-7131
NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0868
POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
214 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila • Tel. Nos 254-0867, 254-0839
ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel, 27th-Lacson St.,
Mandalagan, Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132
RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City; Tels. 831-1204
Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City • Tel Nos 843-8838/30, Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City • Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City • Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila • Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City • Tels 372-5084; 410-9286/87
VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City • Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila • Tels. 522-8846; 522-9438; 400-5394

ERRATUM

In the obituary notice for the late **AMBASSADOR ALEJANDRO B. MELCHOR, JR.**, his bereaved wife, ***Mrs. Rosario "Charito" Panganiban-Melchor*** was erroneously indicated as deceased.

Our deepest apology to the Melchor family especially to Mrs. Melchor, who is still enjoying a full life.

DND

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."

2 Corinthians 5:4-5

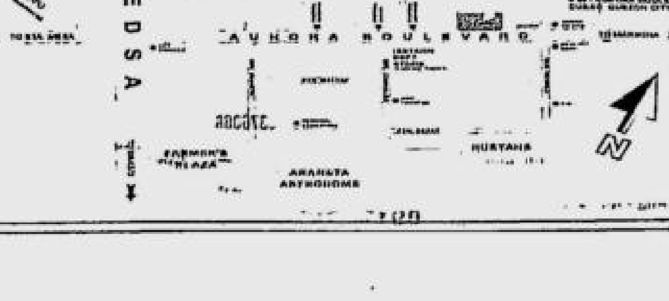
CLASSIFIEDS

ERRATUM

In the ad of **THE WORLD BANK** on July 14 issue of Jobmarket, the deadline for sending the application letter should have been **July 15, 2002** instead of July 22, 2002 as published.

Our apologies

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS
Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements.
For inquiries, please call 912-9008 to 11.



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority through the Bids and Awards Committee invites contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Category "B" / Medium "A" for Buildings who had completed similar core housing construction projects (at least 50% of Approved Budget) to bid for the contracts listed below:

Name/Location of Project	Approved Budget	Work Description
1. Construction of 41 Core housing Units, Brgy. Tinago and Talisay MMP Projects, Ozamis City	P3.136 m.	Core housing construction
2. Construction of 40 Core housing Units, Benoni, Mahinog, Camiguin	P3.136 m.	Core housing construction

A. Only contractors duly registered with NHA may be allowed to participate in the eligibility screening. Unregistered bidders must register at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City prior to the deadline of submission of letter of intent (LOI) or not later than July 23, 2002. A list of basic requirements for registration is available at the BAC Secretariat.

B. Eligibility Statement forms as well as other information are available at the Office of the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City upon submission of Certificate of Registration, LOI and PCAB license. Deadline of submission of duly accomplished eligibility statement form is on July 30, 2002, not later than 10:00 a.m.

C. Bid documents shall be issued to eligible bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 per set.

D. Bid deposits shall be in the form of cash, manager's or cashier's check only

E. NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formally any minor defect thereon and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Assistant General Manager
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - July 11 & 18 2002)

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www.jobmarketonline.com

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, North Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

In Compliance of RA 7041

1. OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN - OMB-PROPER

- **HEAD EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**; Item No. OMBA-HEA-1-2001; SG-27; Education: Bachelor's degree; Experience: 4 years of relevant experience; Training: 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility.
- **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT VI**; Item No. OMBA-EXA6-1-1998; SG-25; Education: Bachelor's degree; Experience: 3 years of relevant experience; Training: 16 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service (Professional); Second Level Eligibility.

Interested applicants should submit on or before July 29, 2002 to the Human Resource Management Division, at the above address an application letter stating the position item applied for, duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212), "1x1" picture (colored), Certificate of Eligibility, Transcript of Records, Certificate of Seminar/Training attended (CSC accredited) and Certification from previous/present employment stating the position, actual duties and responsibilities.

"The position is proposed to be converted from a co-terminus position to a regular position subject to the approval of the Civil Service Commission (CSC). The proposed qualifications of the positions are subject to CSC approval.

PDI--July 18, 2002)

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Two school employees win big prizes in Globe's TXTRS 5

WHAT are the chances that two people working in the school system would become back-to-back winners in Globe TXTRS 5?

Probably unlikely, but that's what happened when a human resources employee at the University of the East and a Grade One teacher from Mary Cause of Our Holy Catholic School became winners of the game show's Missing Lyric interactive texting contest. It's back to school time again and, definitely, these are two individuals who can say they have gained the most from their summer vacation.

Like these two school winners, more and more Globe Handyphone subscribers are finding out in various ways that being Globe-connected can be highly rewarding. Globe not only provides great service but truly makes great things possible for its subscribers.

Soft-spoken Marlene Reducindo of Malabon City, 27, is a human resources employee at the University of the East. Texting only 10 entries to the Missing Lyric contest of the TXTRS 5 game show apparently proved to be enough for Marlene to hit it big as a weekly winner with a P500,000 cash prize.

"I was shocked. I was excited," a joyful Marlene, a Globe Handyphone subscriber for the last two years, said when she claimed her cool winnings. "Globe's TXTRS 5 was really fun and exciting. I'm glad I joined," she said

Marlene has simple yet practical plans for the money. "My husband Alex and I are newlyweds. The P500,000 we won will pay back all that we had spent for the wedding, " said Marlene, smiling.

Alice Trinidad of Alabang, Muntinlupa, 30, has been a teacher for eight years. Bubbly and easily likable, it is not hard to imagine that she is a popular teacher among her students at the Mary Cause of Our Joy Catholic School where she is a mentor to grade One Students.

Alice is also a frequent texter, as she has demonstrated with her TXTRS 5 entries. "I sent out around 200 entries during the week that I won," said Alice who went delirious when she learned that she won a new BMW 316I from winning in TXTRS 5's Missing Lyric contest.

"I'm so happy. My family is so happy," exclaimed Alice when her sleek navy blue BMW was turned over to her at PGA Cars Inc in Ortigas, Edsa. Her whole family, in fact, came over with Alice when she claimed her prize. "This is our first ever car, and it's a BMW at that! I want to learn how to drive immediately," said the gushing teacher.

So the next time you see a brand new BMW parked in the school parking lot, or an extremely cheerful school employee, don't be too surprised if they're on Globe.

Launching and Press ... ing on
TEXT CSC

GLOBE, CSC OFFER 'TEXT CSC'

Globe Telecom, the Civil Service Commission (CSC), and the city government of Quezon City recently joined hands to offer TEXT CSC to the public. The new text-based service enables Globe Handyphone subscribers to use their cellular phones to reach government agencies the fast way through text messaging. TEXT CSC also allows them to download pertinent information regarding government agencies and their services and programs. By texting their message, their name, the name of the government employee or agency one wishes to commend or complain about, and sending to 0917-TEXTCSC (8398272). Globe texters can relay text messages to the CSC, after which they can expect appropriate action from the agency. They could also text the keyword CIVILSERVICE and send to 2355 for information on government agencies. At the launch at the Quezon City Hall are CSC chair Karina Constantino-David and QC mayor Feliciano Belmonte. Looking on are Globe Telecom AVP for customer service Reuben Pangan (left) and SVP for corporate and regulatory affairs lawyer Rodolfo Salalima.

ING CEREMONIES
TAXPAYERS 2001
KITA

METROBANK AMONG TOP 10 TAXPAYERS

Metrobank, the country's largest bank, was recently cited the 7th top corporate taxpayer of 2001 by the City of Manila. The citation was formally given during the 2001 Annual Recognition of the Top Ten Taxpayers for both Business and Real Property Taxes categories. The affair, which was held at the Bulwagang Gat. Antonio Villegas of the Manila City Hall, was one of the highlights of the celebration of the 431st founding anniversary of Manila. Metrobank senior vice president and head of Metrobank's Downtown Center Melinda Ching is shown here accepting the plaque of recognition from Manila mayor Lito Atienza. This is the second time that Metrobank was awarded one of the top business taxpayers.

Mama Sita's features king of peppers

MAMA Sita's Mixes and Sauces introduces the Philippines' king of peppers in its newest product, Mama Sita's Pure Labuyo Chili Sauce, made from organically grown labuyo chilis guaranteed to fire up every gourmet's appetite.

The new condiment boasts of all-natural preservative-free ingredients such as labuyo peppers, vinegar and salt. Available in convenient 60-ml bottles, Mama Sita's Pure Labuyo Chili Sauce provides a sharp, tangy taste that is spicy enough but not overwhelming. It has no extenders or emulsifiers, and is sold at a price lower than the leading imported brand.

Mama Sita's Pure Labuyo Chili Sauce is manufactured by Marigold Commodities Corp. (MCC), which has earned the reputation here and abroad of making quality products using only natural ingredients from indigenous plants. The company spent some 25 years of perfecting the production of its Labuyo Chili Sauce. Founded by the late Teresita Reyes (Mama Sita) of the renowned Aristocrat Restaurant clan, MCC continuously develops products that promote Philippine culinary traditions.

For more of Mama Sita's Mixes and Sauces, visit www.msita.com

CCDC'S 1ST FAMILY DAY

The Cambridge Child Development Centre recently held its 1st Family Day at the Chateau Verde, Valle Verde 2 Park, Pasig. It is the first and only pre-school in the Philippines that offers internationally recognized child development programs. The CCDC is open to all children 18 months to 6 years old. The CCDC's academic and non-academic or enrichment programs promote holistic development in children and assures them admission into top schools nationwide. The Family Day was attended by students, family members, and teachers. Also present were Leo Riingen, president and CEO of Informatics Philippines (first row, left) and James McCarthy, CCDC general manager. For inquiries on CCDC programs, call James McCarthy at 671-7940 to 41. The CCDC was first established in Singapore in 1994, as part of the award-winning Informatics Group.

MOST OUSTANDING CLUB, PRESIDENT

Soroptimist International of Quezon City received the most outstanding club and most outstanding club president award during the 18th biennial conference of the Soroptimist International of the Philippine region at the Millennium Hall of the Manila Hotel recently. Shown are (from left) Pat Ayson, Bechay Ledesma, Ginny Jugo, president-elect Amar Torres, president Lennie Gorospe, Elsa Syjuco, Elsie de Veyra, Bing Grande of SI Eastwood City, Suman Gogna, Thelma Ortiz and Celine Africa.

CCP INAUGURATES CYBER PORT

The Central Colleges of the Philippines recently inaugurated an On-Campus Internet access center called Center Cyber Port. Held at the CCP, Quezon City, the event was participated in by executives of CCP and PT&T and other support groups such as various CCP school organizations and members of the Dean Department. Partnering with PT&T, CCP makes the Center Cyber Port accessible to all CCP students for research and study purposes, with 83 Internet-ready computers installed. Shown at the inauguration are (from left) Glicerio Sicat, Jose Luis Santiago, president and CEO of PT&T and an alumnus of CCP, CCP president lawyer Crispino Reyes, and H. Carlos Reyes.

MORE WINNERS FOR AVON TRENDLINE PROMO

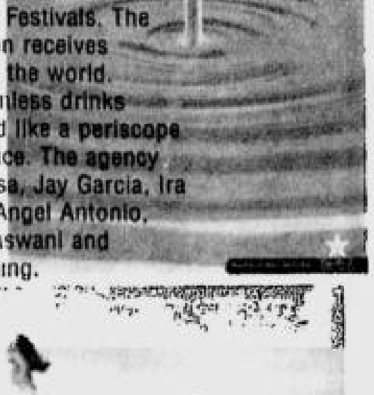
Many Avon branches are ablaze with excitement as more customers and dealers scratch their way to instant cash prizes with Avon Trendline Prizes and Surprises Promo. Lucky winners get as much as P100,000 through the Instant Win Game Cards plus an extra chance to win one of eight Vespa Mopeds in the grand raffle. The Avon Trendline Prizes and Surprises promo celebrates the introduction of the special edition Trendline cosmetic products, which include Moisturizing Lipstick, SPF 6 Pressed Powder and refill, 2-in-1 Dual Powder Foundation, Silky Powder Blush, and Intense Color Eyeshadow. Avon dealer Luisa E. Capiones (Shaw branch) here receives her P100,000 prize from Avon branch operations manager Globet Ogbac and branch sales manager Daisy Limpin.

Berkley promotes Dela Vega-Cruz to corporate communications director

BERKLEY International Philippines Inc. through its president, Felipe R. Diego, announces the promotion of Gina dela Vega-Cruz as corporate communications director. Originally hired in October 2001 as corporate communications manager for Berkley and its subsidiaries, Dela Vega-Cruz quickly earned her promotion after just over five months in the company. Dela Vega-Cruz graduated from the University of the Philippines with the degree of Communications Arts, cum laude. She brings with her a wealth of experience in the whole range of communications work, including but not limited to public relations, copywriting, media networking, advertising and special events management. Dela Vega-Cruz gained her experience from her various stints in the government and private sector, notably, the Philippine Senate, the power, hotel, banking and personal care industries as well as the government television station where Dela Vega-Cruz once served as a newscaster and writer. As Corporate Communications director, Dela Vega-Cruz is tasked with the planning and implementation of all internal and external communications programs for Berkley International Plans, Berkley International Life and Family First Inc. She is also expected to formulate strategies that will help fortify Berkley's position as one of the leading pre-need companies in the country today. Dela Vega-Cruz's promotion solidifies Berkley's industry reputation as a company that values and rewards fast its employees' excellent performance and output.

Product FILES

JWT ad in NY fest finals



A CARL'S Jr.'s poster created by J. Walter Thompson Manila was chosen finalist in the outdoor category of the New York Festivals. The prestigious advertising competition receives thousands of entries from all over the world.

The Carl's Jr. poster for bottomless drinks shows a drinking straw configured like a periscope emerging from a sea of orange juice. The agency team is composed of Noel Manacsa, Jay Garcia, Ira Zabat, Peter Bumagat, creatives, Angel Antonio, Jeof Pena, client service, Kiran Vaswani and Christine Mabilog, strategic planning.

Earlier, JWT broke into the finals of the London International Advertising Awards through its "Bukid" commercial for Kimberly Clark's Joy Pop-Up tissue.

BITS & Clips

Nu Skin's business opportunities

MULTILEVEL marketing is a thriving industry attracting numerous people these days because of its vast opportunities for financial independence and professional growth. Know more about the advantages and benefits of multilevel marketing through Nu Skin Philippines' "Opportunity of a Lifetime" Business Expo and Power Business Opportunity Meeting (BOM) on July 19 and 20 at the company's Ortigas Training Center in Ortigas Center, Pasig City. NSP's top executives will grace the event and share testimonies on how the Nu Skin business helped them achieve success. Guests may visit various booths where they can personally touch, feel and sample Nu Skin products. Admission is free. For inquiries and reservations, call distributor hotline at 689-0333 or log on to www.nuskin.com.ph.

Symposium on new labor code

DEAN Froilan Bacungan, an expert on the Labor Code and president of the Center for Research and Special Studies, is the main speaker at a symposium titled "The New Face of the Labor Code" held on July 19 at the Jose Rizal University Auditorium in Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City. He will make a research-based forecast of possible changes needed to face emerging challenges in the economy based on what has been submitted to Congress and to Dole by all concerned sectors. Key issues such as labor-only contracting, minimum wage legislation, outsourcing, reengineering, and downsizing will be discussed. Interested parties can call the PCCI secretariat at 843-4133 (Grace Morella) or e-mail gmorella@yahoo.com or the JRU Graduate School at 531-8031 to 35 (Yolly Tatad), e-mail gradschool@jru.ecu.

US expert keynotes nurses' confab

DR. BRADFORD L. Therell Jr., Ph.D., director for the US Newborn Screening and Generic Resource Center and a professor of the University of Texas Health Science Center of San Antonio, will keynote the 21st annual convention of the Mother and Child Nurses Association of the Philippines on July 19 at the Manila Midtown Hotel. He will discuss the setting of national priorities for newborn screening. MCNAP president Erlinda B. Ahorro invites all nurses and educators in the field of maternal and pediatric healthcare to attend the convention. Interested parties may call Ahorro at 437-5708, 0919-6437529, 1st vice president and convention chair Col. (Ret.) Estelita T. Galutira at 936-7732, 0919-3599533, or 2nd vice president Alice P. Estiller, 731-3001 local 2376.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
For feedback, text us at (0918)917-5026 or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Tastes

What do you like to eat on a rainy day? We asked around, and the forecast from the kitchen is soupy with chances of hot *champorado*

ASSUNTA de Rossi

CARLOS Agassi

CHIN-CHIN Gutierrez

MARC Abaya of Sandwich

Food for the floods

By Alex C. Paita

WHEN it rains, it pours—badly, as you may have noticed these past couple of weeks. It's either you're outdoors—gripping your umbrella as you skirmish with the unpitying cloudburst, and wishing you have a raft as you cruise the knee-level floods—or, you're indoors, stuck and bored stiff, blowing bubbles till the sun reappears. Both are devastating, though the latter is more downcast, more unproductive.

So what to do?

Rather than bore yourself to death, do something pleasurable, like reading books, playing video games, or...(tada!) eating.

Yup, eating. With more storms to come, we wondered what fodder went best with the splatter, so we asked students, designers, performers, politicians and, of course, the chefs. Let's hear it from different points of taste.

Sinigang na bangus, crab soup with egg and coffee.—**Marc Abaya, lead vocalist, Sandwich**

Hot chocolate. *Champorado*. Garlic rice and *tuyo*.—**Carlos Agassi, actor/model**

Of course, I love rainy-day comfort food like hot *champorado* with spicy *tuyo*. Yummy!—**Cynthia Almario, interior designer**

Balbakua—it's a local dish of the Bisaya—cows' knuckles and ligaments with *sabaw*. Or anything like *tinola* or *monggo*. For dessert, those Chinese sweets and goodies that you can buy in Binondo.—**Gov. Isagani Amatong, Zamboanga del Norte**

Hot homemade chicken soup and hot cocoa!—**Citas Aquino, instructor, UP Los Baños**

I love to eat even when the sun is shining, but even the most simple food tastes better on rainy days. Two items that top my list are fresh *danggit* from Palawan, courtesy of Tita Ellen Hagedorn, and *naglalangis na itlog na maalat* from Pateros. I also crave for food cooked in rich coconut milk spiced up with *siling labuyo. Sarap*!—**Eddie Baddeo, fashion designer**

Champorado with *tuyo*, freshly baked cookies and milk, or hot-served *palabok*. For something extraordinary, hot fudge, a small serving of *halo-halo* or *minatamis na saging* with *arnibal*!—**Jao Bautista, AB Communication Arts graduate, Sta. Rosa, Laguna**

Nothing beats Mrs. Fields raisin and nut cookies with hot coffee. They're light yet enough to keep you feeling warm all over.—**Paul Cabral, fashion designer**

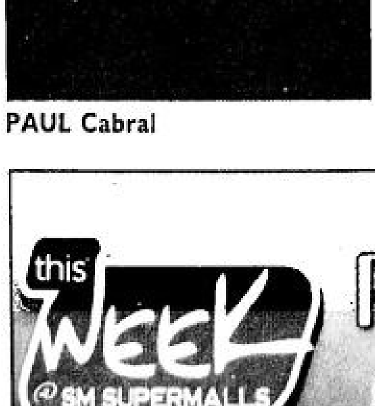
Fried *saging* and hot choco.—**Bamba Espejo, BS Economics graduate, Davao City**

A good Pappa al Pomodoro, thick Tuscan Tomato and bread drizzled with top quality extra virgin olive oil and topped with Parmigiano Reggiano because I am in Rome, and it's pouring outside! But if I were home, good La Paz batchoy with bone marrow or *sinangag* with spicy marinated *tuyo* and tomato wansoy salsa from Café Bola!—**Gaita Fores, Cibo and Café Bola**

Tuyo and tomato salad without the fork and spoon, or a hearty stew of lamb, or beef ribs with bold red wine.—**Gene Gonzalez, Café Ysabel**

Cocido made with salted duck, cured beef and chicken, pork trotters, chorizo, morcilla with tons of veggies enriched with a ham bone

FOOD/ p.C4



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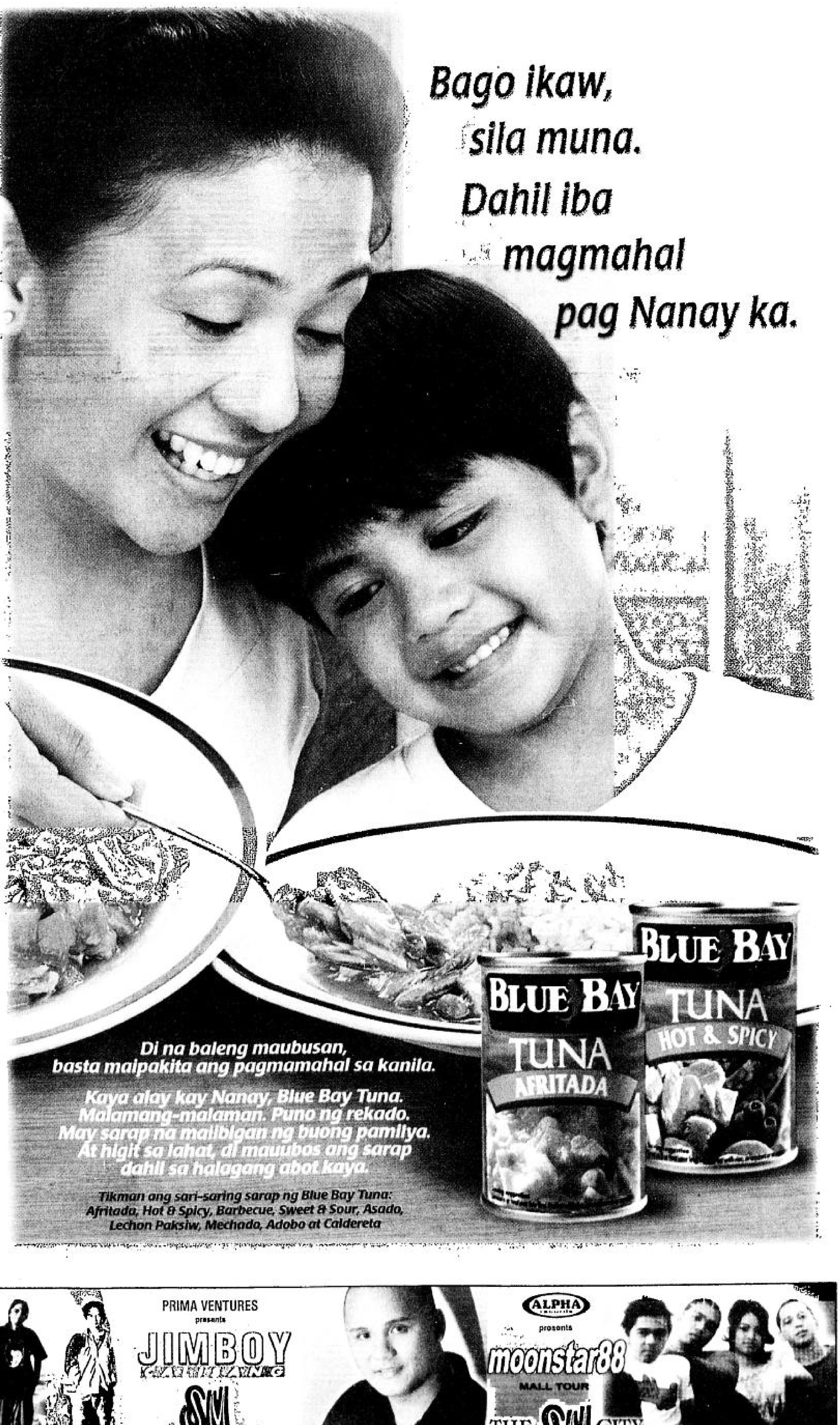

Di na baleng maubusan, basta maipakita ang pagmamahal sa kanila.

Kaya alay kay Nanay, Blue Bay Tuna. Malamang-malaman. Puno ng rekado. May sarap na maiibigan ng buong pamilya. At higit sa lahat, di mauubos ang sarap dahil sa halagang abot kaya.

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For inquiries please contact. Mr. Pepito Olarte, VP for Advertising (8917-537-2348) or Mr. Kenny Nuyda AVP for Advertising (8917-818-7526)

LIBRE

Gourmet omelettes and other rainy day specials

DINING OUT

CAFÉ ALL DAY offers Gourmet Omelettes like Popeye Special Omelette and Big City with New York Special Omelette. Turn your scrambles into omelettes with limitless add-ons—Italian sausages, sautéed peppers and onions. Or, create your own omelettes, with four choices of prime cheeses from Monterey Jack to Feta Cheese and veggies like salsa, broccoli, asparagus or button mushrooms. Top them with seafood shrimp or crisp bacon. Café All Day is located at 2/L Tequila Joe's, El Pueblo, Ortigas.

GAUDI celebrates the 150th birthday of Barcelona architect Antoni Gaudi with the fabulous cuisine of Cataluna until the 28th. The special menu includes Gaudi favorites Arroz Sobreasada (paella of sobreasada with a fine herb sauce), Mar i Muntanya (perfect combination of land and sea platters) and a Catalonian fish stew called Suquet. Appetizers like Butifarra and Fuet have been specially imported from Spain. Desserts include lemon and cava sherbet, Peras al Vino (pears in sweet red wine sauce) or the traditional Crema Catalan. Gaudi Bar Restaurante is located at 114 Jupiter St., Makati City. Call 897-2672 or 897-9392.

BURGOO American Bar and Restaurant offers rainy day treats until Aug. 30. Guests will get a bowl of Burgoo's hot soup free for every order of steaks and ribs. Save as much as P65 or up to 30-percent discount. Pick your choice: Mushroom Soup, Broccoli Soup, Cheese Soup, French Onion Soup, Clam Chowder, Steak Soup or Burgoo Stew. Burgoo branches are at Tomas Morato Extension, South Triangle Diliman, QC; 3/L Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City; and 2/L, The Podium, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. Call 927-7424, 898-1815 or 687-524.

MANILA MIDTOWN HOTEL'S Vogue Coffee Shop offers Korean specialties until July 21. Sample its buffet spread of Baked Lamb Shank with Lilac, Stir Fried Beef with Pear Salad, Spicy Mackerel and Kimchi. Unlimited serving of iced tea goes with this treat. Call 526-7001 local 6554.

EDSA SHANGRI-LA'S Inaho Tei presents "Hanadai Festival" until July 28. Japanese chef Toshio Sato prepares sea bream tempura, sashimi, *kobujime* (marinated with seaweed), *ynanyaki* (grilled with yozu orange and soya sauce), *chirimushi* (steamed with vegetables), *oshizushi* (box pressed on vinegared rice), *iridashi* (deep fired with ponzu sauce) and *shinshumushi* (steamed with buckwheet noodles). Garden Café presents "Filipino Fiesta" until July 31. Those who dine in a group of 20 can get a complimentary overnight stay for two. Call 633-8888 local 2738 or 2739.

MANDARIN ORIENTAL'S Tin Hau unveils the flavors of Szechuan cuisine until July 31. Revel in marinated duckling in salt water, smoked pigeon in tea leaves, fish broth with black mushroom and coriander, deep-fried dried bean curd skin rolled in prawns and topped with sea cucumber, braised fish maw with black mushroom, chicken and yunan ham, steamed beef of tenderloin with mashed rice vermicelli and hot chili. The Hot Pot Szechuan Style, consisting of fish ball, fresh black mushroom, cuttlefish, bean curd, prawns, fillet of fish, beef tenderloin and crab bean, is a treat for four persons. Call 750-8888 local 2424.

MAKATI SHANGRI-LA'S Island Life showcases Singaporean cuisine in lunch and dinner buffet until July 30 at Island Café. The buffet counter is laden with the island nation's ethnic specialties like Indian Tandoori Chicken Chaat (baked chicken in clay oven with tossed onion and capsicums) and Chicken Lababdar (chicken cooked in sweet and sour gravy with Indian spice), the Chinese Ah Hoi (black pepper crab and stir-fried bee hon with vegetables), the Malay Ayam Goreng Kampoong (flavored deep-fried chicken wings) and Chicken Stay with traditional peanut sauce. Call 840-0884 or 813-8888 local 7588 and 7599.

DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO'S Café Restaurant offers the Daily International Buffet and Juice Buffet this month. The daily buffet offers a spread of international, Asian and Filipino breakfast, lunch and dinner with grilled seafood, sashimi and sushi. Satisfy your cravings with strawberry and chocolate milk shakes or get a glass of your favorite coffee concoction for only P130. Enjoy late night happy hour at The Café and all the local beers while savoring pica-pica menu from 11 p.m.-4 a.m. Wine connoisseurs will surely enjoy Dusit's Wine Buffet special at the Lobby Lounge from 5-9 p.m. for the whole month of July. Call 867-3333 local 3346 to 3347.

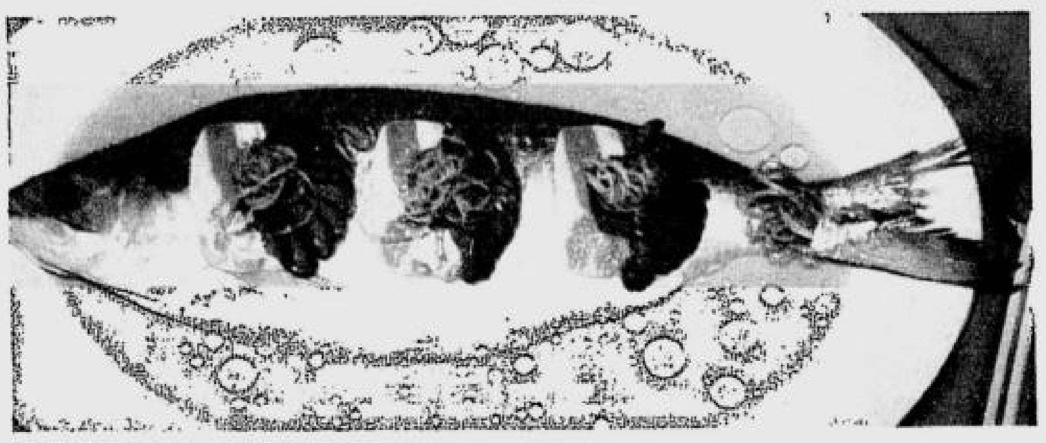
MANILA GALLERIA SUITES' chef Stefan Farkas presents International Buffet at Raphael Café-Restaurant until July 21. Satisfy your taste buds with Roast Porkloin with Blue Cheese and Walnut Sauce, Beef Tournedos with Red Peppercorn Sauce, and Baked Dory Fish Fillet on Cream of Leek and Vol-Au-Vent with Shrimp Ragout. Indulge in Beef Tenderloin with wild mushroom sauce, Sweet and Sour Pork, Pan-fried Chicken Breast with garlic sauce and Cheese-Chicken and Rice Enchiladas with picanta sauce, cheese, sour cream. Call 633-7111 local 7416/7440.

CITY GARDEN HOTEL offers the "Steak All You Can" promo at the Roofdeck Bar & Grill for dinner. Enjoy T-bone, sirloin and tenderloin steaks, beef ribs and spareribs prepared just the way you like it served with your choice of salad or corn on the cob or pasta and topped with your sauce of choice. A variety of desserts will be part of the promo. The Danesi Italian coffee is also offered for only P45 per cup. Call 899-1111.

CENTURY PARK HOTEL'S Unkai Japanese Restaurant offers a special menu for July and August. This month, treat yourself to Scochu Omimai (summer greetings) and for August, celebrate at the Unkai with Natsu Matsuri (summer festival). The summer dishes include Salad Udon—cold wheat noodle topped with lettuce, cucumber, seaweed, kani sticks and mayo; Hamachi Kama Shioyaki—grilled salt-cured yellow tail jaw; Unagi Yangawa Nabe—eel and burdock with egg in soup; and the Sashimi Konnyaku—slices of paste made from starchy arum root, served with vinegar flavored bean paste.

BEDROCK Bar and Grill Restaurant on Jupiter Street offers a 50-percent discount on food and drinks every Saturday. From 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., "Appetizer Mania" and "Bucket of Six" promos happen. Happy hour starts with appetizers you can eat for only P100: Chicken Skins, Crispy Prawn Heads, Sinisig na Pusit, Sizzling Garlic Mushrooms and Roasted Pork with Fried Tofu. And for only P288, you can already have six bottles of your favorite San Miguel Beer. Bedrock Bar and Grill Restaurant is at 126 Jupiter St., Bel-Air Village, Makati City. It is open from 6 p.m. to 4 a.m. daily. Call 897-3480 to 81.

T.G.I. FRIDAY'S presents Chicken Sensations at its branches at Glorietta, Robinsons Place Manila, Hotel Rembrandt in Quezon City, Alabang Town Center and the Brickroad of Sta. Lucia East. These new entrees are Roasted Barbecue Chicken, Southern Comfort Roasted Chicken and Friday's Fried Chicken. All these chicken quarters come with Southwestern-roasted corn and rice at P195 each.



HILSA HERRING, a delicacy of China's Zhenjiang province and known in Manila as Hongkong fish, is the highlight of Peking Garden Restaurant's menu for its seventh anniversary celebration. Offered with a generous 30-percent discount (for à la carte orders only), the Hilsa Herring is served in seven ways by the restaurant's seasoned Hongkong chefs—sizzling, steamed with tausi sauce that's mildly spicy, steamed with preserved vegetables, spicy braised, braised with mushrooms and bamboo shoots, and sautéed Shanghai-style. Offer is on-going until Aug. 11 for lunch and dinner. An affiliate of the renowned Maxim's Group of Restaurants-Hongkong, Peking Garden is at 2/L Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City. Call tel. 817-9066/67.

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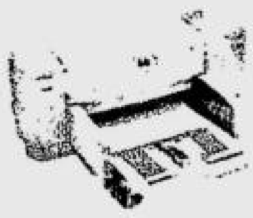

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Food for the floods

ARMIDA Siguion-Reyna

From page C1

stock with tomato sofrito and roasted eggplant sauce.—**Gino Gonzalez, Center for Culinary Studies**

Tofu, veggies and veggie meat. I'm a vegetarian!—**Chin-Chin Gutierrez, actress**

Mami with *lugaw* and *tokwa't baboy*!—**Junjun de Guzman, Center for Culinary Studies**

Egg soup and hot milk!—**Marvel Julian, star of ABC 5's reality show "Single"**

That would have to be vegetable *arroz caldo* for breakfast, cold soba for lunch and a classic pepper steak with a good red wine for dinner.—**Billy King, Le Soufflé**

Tinolang manok, leche flan, coffee or hot choco.—**Carlo Ledesma, host, Gameplan**

GOV. Isagani Amatong

Soups! Cream of mushroom, cream of onion and the like.—**Rita Magdalena, actress**

I usually go for *arroz caldo* with *tokwa't baboy* for brunch. It's a an ideal combination for those cold, rainy mornings. For *merienda*, I have special *ensaimada* with my sister Cherrie's peanut mixed with *tsokolate* el Perfect!—**Eric Pineda, fashion and costume designer**

A hot bowl of *batchoy* or any noodle soup. Anything hot!—**Jev Ramos, VP for accounts, Campaigns & Grey**

Hot soup and *goto*.—**Glysa Rimorin, Commerce student, St. Scholastica's College**

Soup of any kind; *sinigang*, *arroz caldo* and hot tea.—**Assunta de Rossi, actress/model**

GAITA Fores

EDDIE Baddeo

JUN de Guzman

Talong and *bagoong* with rice. That's what I've been eating since I was a child!—**Armida Siguion-Reyna, actress/producer**

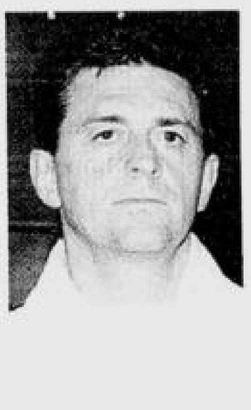
I would like to have a huge serving of a double dark chocolate soufflé that I can share with family and friends. I'd like to see all of us perspire on a cold rainy day without jogging! Oh, and don't forget the butterscotch sauce! Yummy!—**Jessie Sincioco, Le Soufflé**

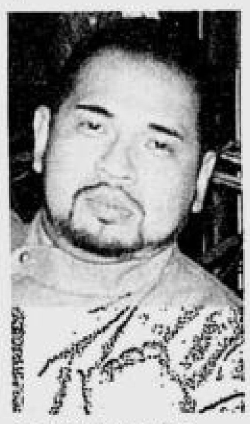
Arroz caldo, but at times, ice cream is good *din para mas malamig 'yung pakiramdam.*—**Cyril Sorongon, drummer, Skin band**

Because I am now a diabetic, I eat boiled banana *saba* on rainy days rather than bananacue. Why? I love *saba*, but the rain outside somehow makes my appetite crave for it more and more.—**Patis Tesoro, designer**

Dinuguan and *puto* with matching *kapeng barako*.—**Eric Vicente, jeepney driver, QC**

With reports from Alex Vergara and Cathy Babao-Guballa


BILLY King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Dulcinea
Nestle Ice Cream
Oliver's Super Sandwich
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Window's Cafe

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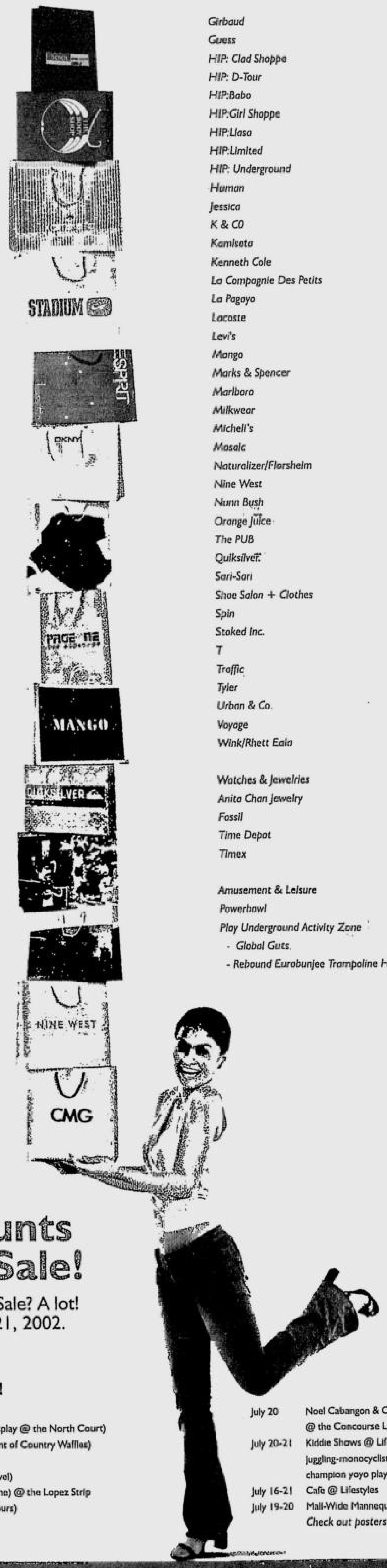

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July 19-21 Play Underground's REBOUND (bungee-trampoline) @ the Lopez Strip
July 20 It's Raining Cats & Dogs (Cats & Dogs Fair; mall hours)
@ the Power Plant Plaza Garden & South Court
July 20 Noel Cabangon & Cooky Chua
@ the Concourse Level, 8-11pm
July 20-21 Kiddie Shows @ Lifestyles, featuring a phantomime artist, juggling-monocyclist, ventriloquist, and the world's champion yoyo player, 2:30-4pm
July 16-21 Cafe @ Lifestyles
July 19-20 Mall-Wide Mannequin Fashion Show
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Per DTI NCR Permit No. A1 381 & 382 Series of 2002

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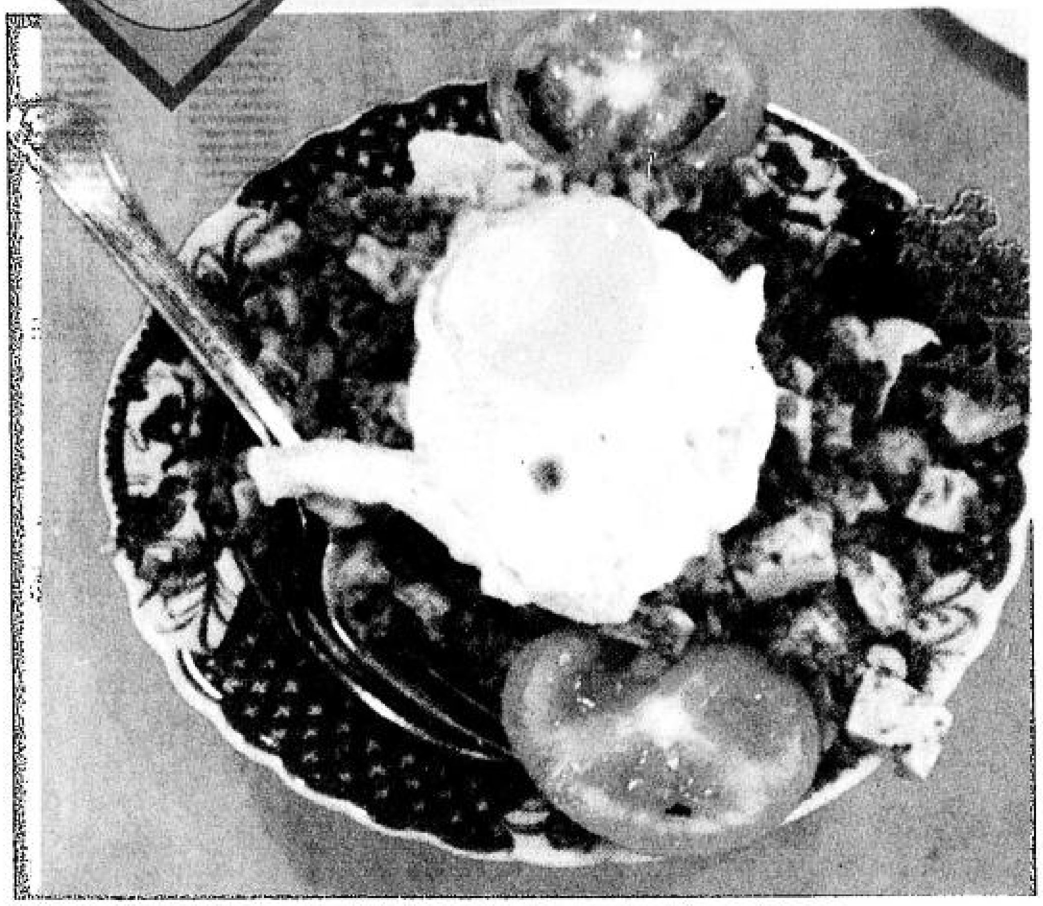


MINCHI à moda de Macau, stir-fried beef with sweet potatoes and egg

A delightful cuisine called Macanese

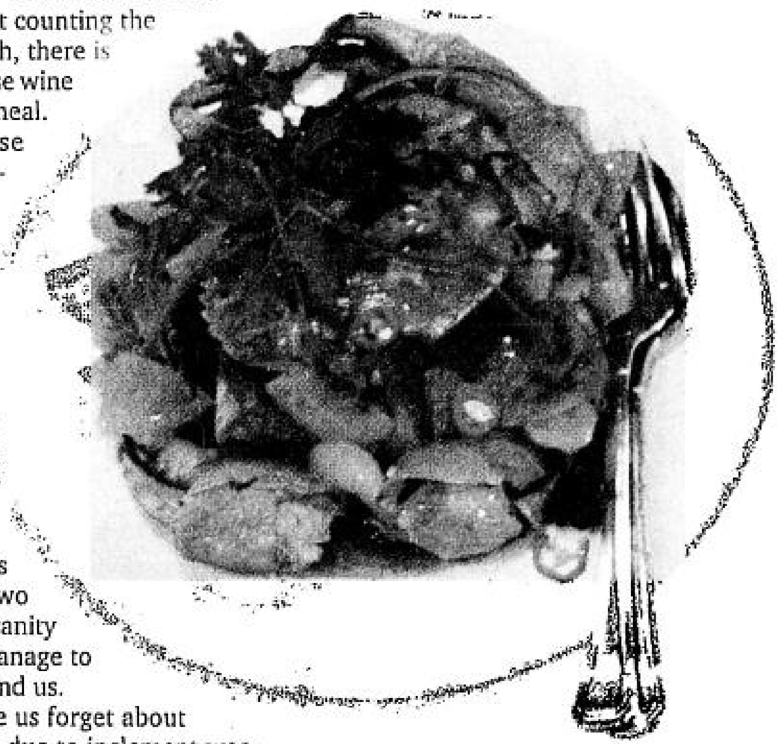
Text and photos by Anne A. Jambora

WHILE Macau is known for its 10 casinos sprawled over a 23.8-sq-km land area—open 24 hours every day and always packed with gamblers hopeful for a jackpot—it is just as known for its excellent Macanese cuisine. If the Macanese can afford the luxury of spending long, lazy hours over a meal, expect nothing less than meticulously prepared dishes that are good to the last bite.

> Macau is a melting pot of Portuguese, Indian, Malay and Chinese influences, with nuances familiar to the Filipino palate

A Macau meal is guaranteed to satiate hungry stomachs after hours spent on walking tours. In fact, one has to be, well, ravenous, to say the least, to finish a full meal. Dishes come in one by one, lauriat style, in small plates, which are by no means less filling. The norm is a total of five, six—sometimes seven—courses, and that's not counting the mandatory dessert. Oh, there is also the fine Portuguese wine that goes with every meal.

That the Macanese love to eat is an understatement. Our tour guide, Macau Government Tourist Office PR executive João Novikoff Sales, says they eat up to eight times a day. They can sure give food-loving Pinoys a run for their *palayok*—some of them anyway. Sales himself is keeping it down to two or three for, hmmm, vanity reasons. How they manage to keep in shape is beyond us.



STEWED crab casserole with curry

The food has made us forget about the turbulent flight—due to inclement weather—onboard Cebu Pacific's Cebu Class. Twenty minutes and two plates later, not even halfway through the course, we are too full for comfort and yet unable to resist the endearing Macanese hospitality. Of course, the delicious temptations before our eyes made it easier to keep saying yes.

Fusion

Macanese food is an interesting mix of Portuguese, Indian, Malay and Chinese influences, with nuances familiar to the Filipino palate. Its Portuguese recipes are infused with Asian spices, and the result is one flavorful spread. Their Portuguese sausage brings to mind our *chorizo de Bilbao*, their squid with vinegar, our *kilawin* and their fish cakes, strangely enough, taste like our crab cakes, although they insist theirs was fish, so there you go.

Our group samples authentic Macanese food from four restaurants: Restaurante Litoral, O Porto Interior, Artsy Cafeteria and Bar and Manuel Cozinha Portuguesa. Their menus offer almost the same cuisine, with slight variations in the amount of herbs and spice used. The restaurants differ in ambience, too, but who needs that when the food is really good?

A DELIGHTFUL p. D3

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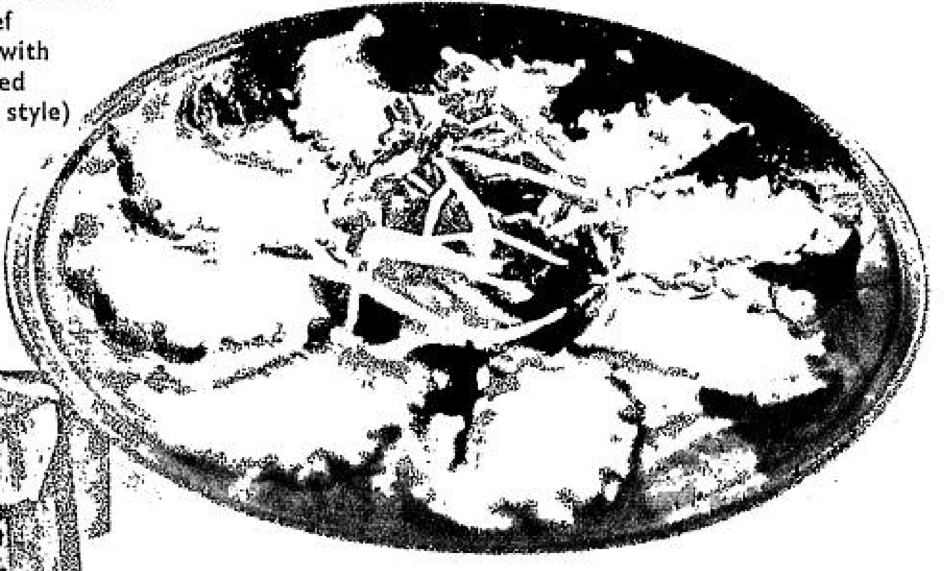
ROKURO Izakaya's interiors take inspiration from country homes in Japan.

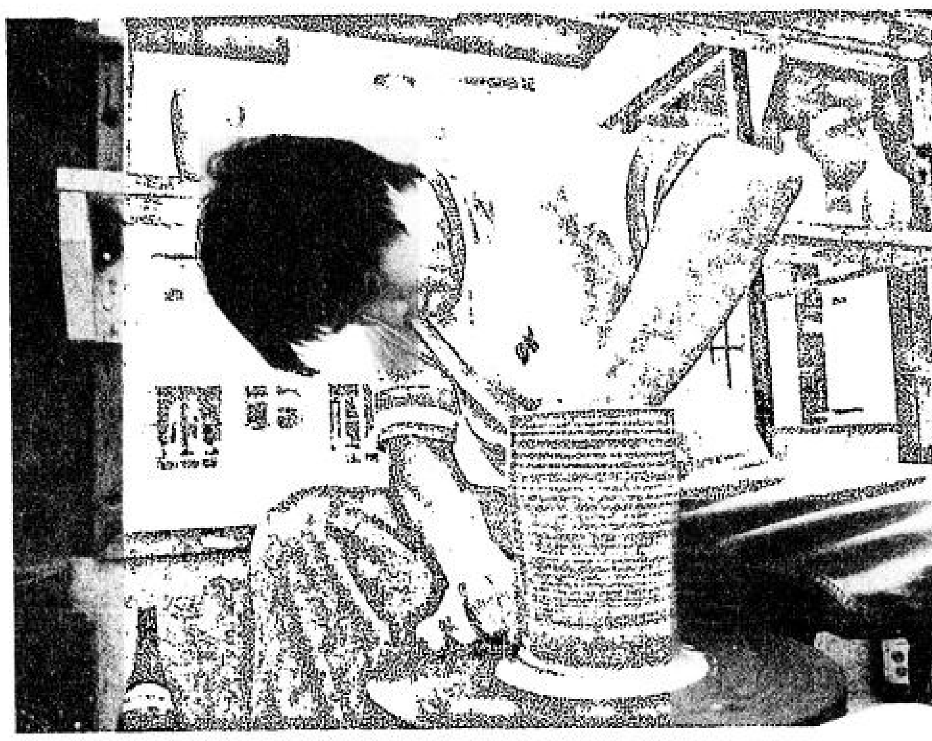
NINNIKU Korokoro Suteki (beef tenderloin with garlic cooked teppanyaki style)

Wheel of small dishes

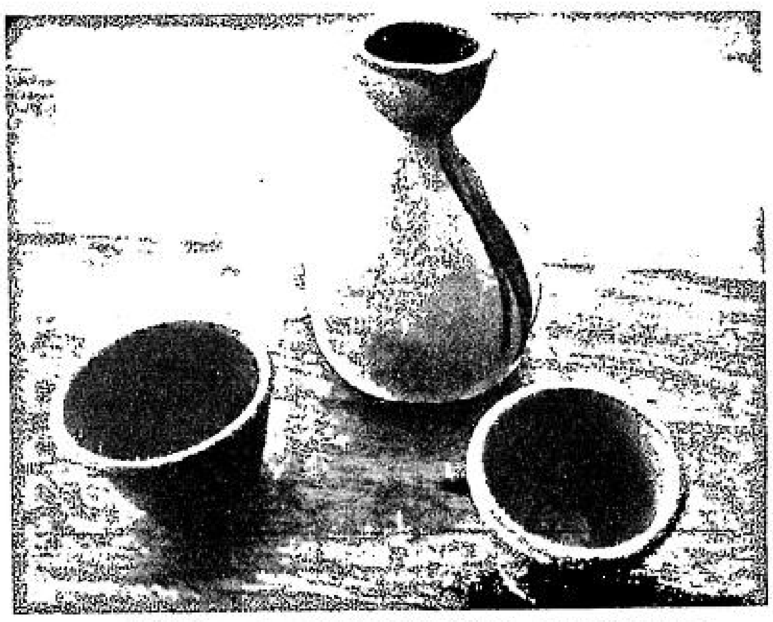


NASU Itame Ni (spicy eggplant simmered in sweet broth)

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Johnny Villena



PABLO Capati creates the pots displayed at Rokuro Izakaya.



STONEWARE for serving *sake* or plum wine

A SMALL rustic Japanese restaurant in Manila, Rokuro Izakaya is decorated only with unglazed pottery, bamboo mats and *katsa* hangings. In this atmosphere, the food is the star. It doesn't serve any sushi at all, only sashimi—usually sparkling—fresh tuna, salmon, crab and shrimps with wasabi-spiked soy sauce. Rokuro Izakaya cuts its sashimi as they do in Japan—in small, bite-size portions.

The Japanese word *rokuro* means pottery wheel while *izakaya* refers to the different kinds of small dishes, from spicy and sweet to raw and fried. *Izakaya* is served with beer, *sake* or Japanese vodka.

"It is a Japanese principle never to fill the plates or vessels, never to serve a large amount of one thing. Less is more. Each food is served in its own dish, something the color, shape and texture of which enhances the deliciousness of the food served," says Nikki Capati, who owns and manages Rokuro Izakaya with her husband Pablo.

Lunch and dinner consist of appetizer-size samplings of dishes: sashimi of wonderful seafood flash-seared in Japanese vegetable or corn oil and flavored with soy, sesame and lemon. It's warm and raw all at once, and quite divine. The spicy eggplant simmered in sweet broth is the Platonic ideal of that vegetable, and the blanched octopus in *yuzupon* and *goma abura* dressing topped with ginger strips is tender. Another delicious invention is the crispy fried flounder fillets that will tantalize your palate.

The other triumphs of Rokuro Izakaya are the succulent foil-wrapped little mushrooms and beef tenderloin with garlic, cooked teppanyaki style. Have a round of *sake*, plum wine or rice tea to cap your meal.

For the Capatis, Japanese cuisine is "deceptively simple." Its key requirements are freshness, prime condition of materials used and beauty of presentation. "At Rokuro, we like to share with you not only the food but also the beauty of simple things we have put together, the grain and texture of wood, the strength and flexibility of bamboo, the faithfulness of hemp fiber and handmade paper, and most of all, clay. We use it in its true nature, straightforward functional beauty," Nikki says.

Rokuro's owners share the beauty of simple things they have created as they serve bite-size portions of Japanese food

Food is art

Inspired by Japanese home cooking in Kobe and Osaka, Japan, Pablo formulated the recipes of Rokuro Izakaya with the help of his Japanese sister-in-law. "The look, flavor and texture are important because food is art to the Japanese. We want to be very respectful of the cuisine that inspired us," says Pablo, who trains the restaurant's five cooks. "I show them the recipes, teach them how to present them and how they should taste. Such little details make a big difference."

Pablo lived in Japan for 10 years with his family. His father was an expat then. He took up a business course at the University of Southern California. When they came back to the Philippines, Pablo put up his first Japanese restaurant with a partner.

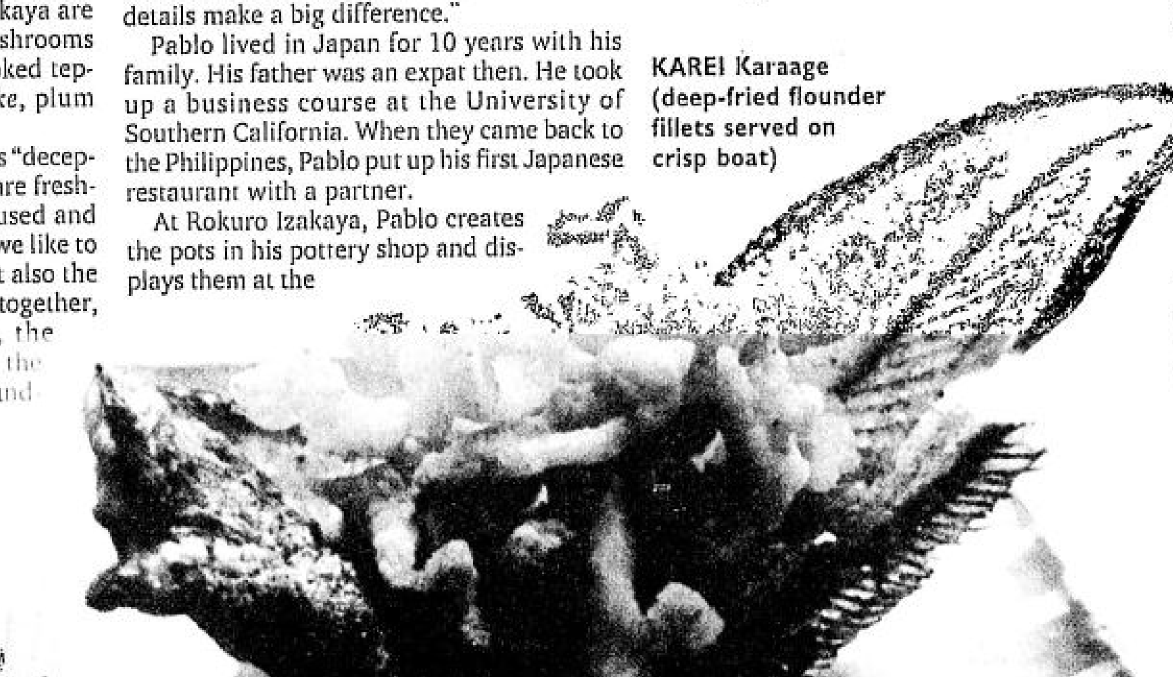
At Rokuro Izakaya, Pablo creates the pots in his pottery shop and displays them at the restaurant. Nikki, on the other hand, did the interior design and the handmade map and Wave painting on its walls.

"The restaurant and pottery shop showcase our creative outputs. It was built out of love for what we do and believe in. It's more of our lifestyle," Nikki says.

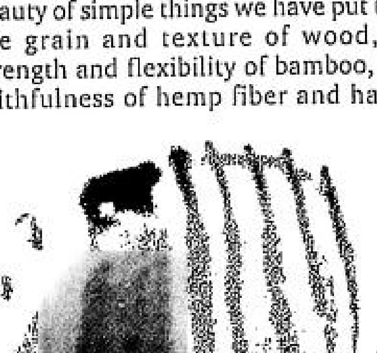
Located at 610 J. Nakpil St., Malate, Rokuro Izakaya, open from Tuesday to Sunday, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and 6-11 p.m., serves what is available in the market. "We focus on the seasonality of the octopus and flounder. With the latter, we only buy six pieces a day. If we can't get perfect flounder, then we won't serve it. The same is true with tuna or salmon," says Pablo, who does the marketing every day.

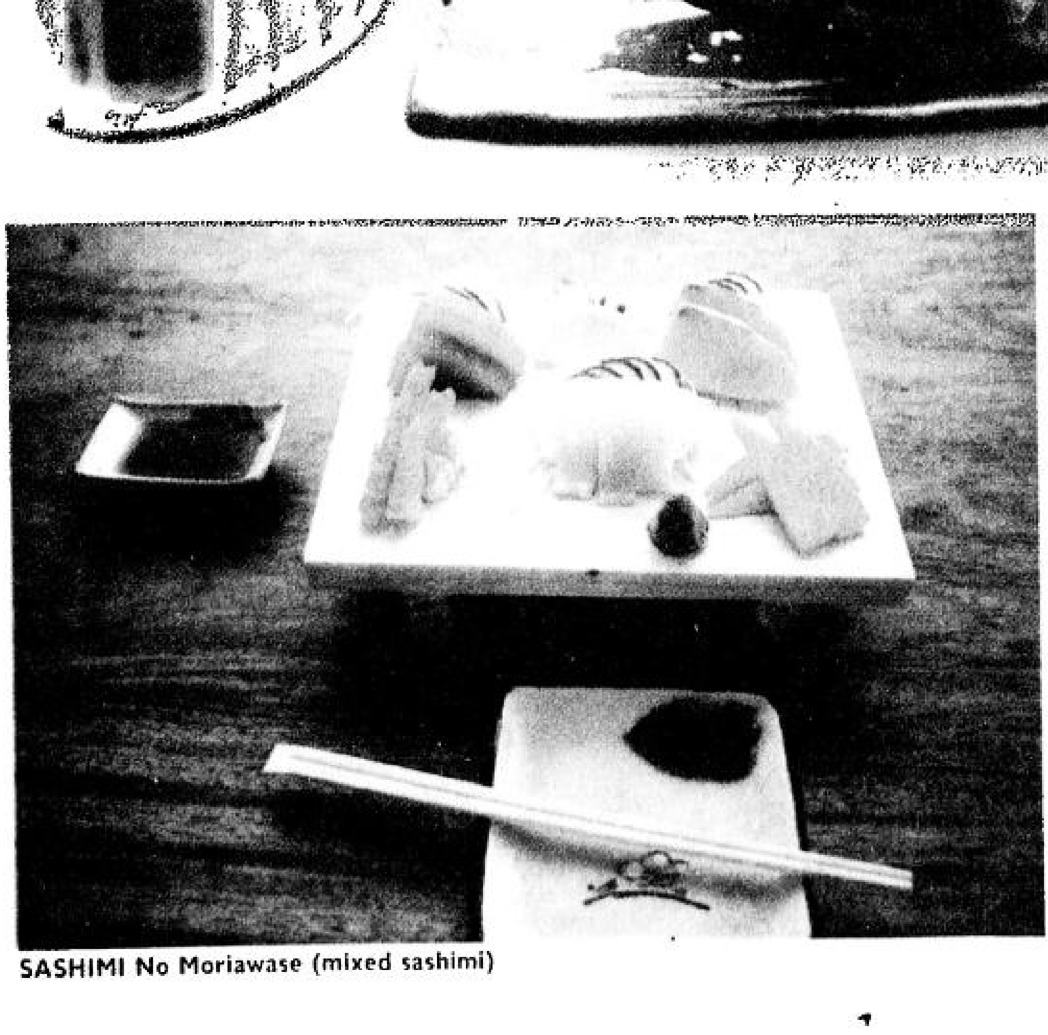
The vibrancy of Asian food, particularly Japanese cuisine, is what fascinates the couple. As Pablo likes to point out, "Western food is almost too similar in flavor and texture. With Asian, there are incredible counterpoints of sweet and salty, hot and sour. There is that exciting counterplay and the distinct flavors that have a tremendous capacity to meld."

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



KAREI Karaage (deep-fried flounder fillets served on crisp boat)

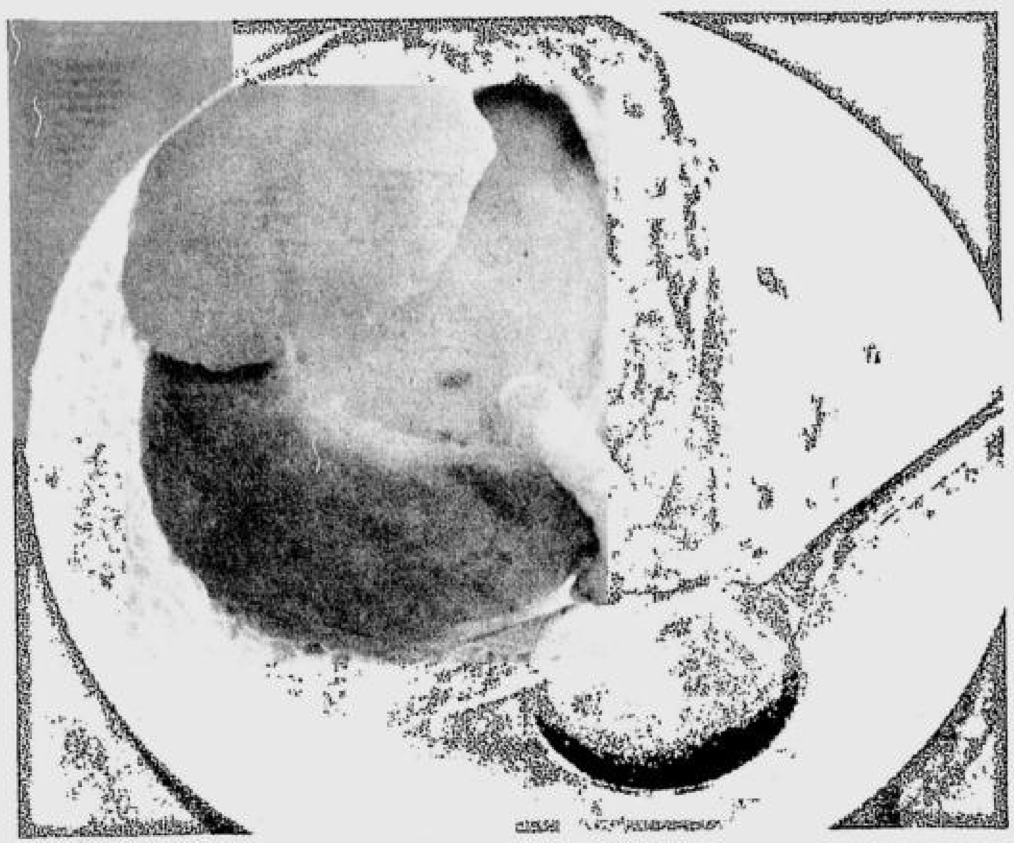




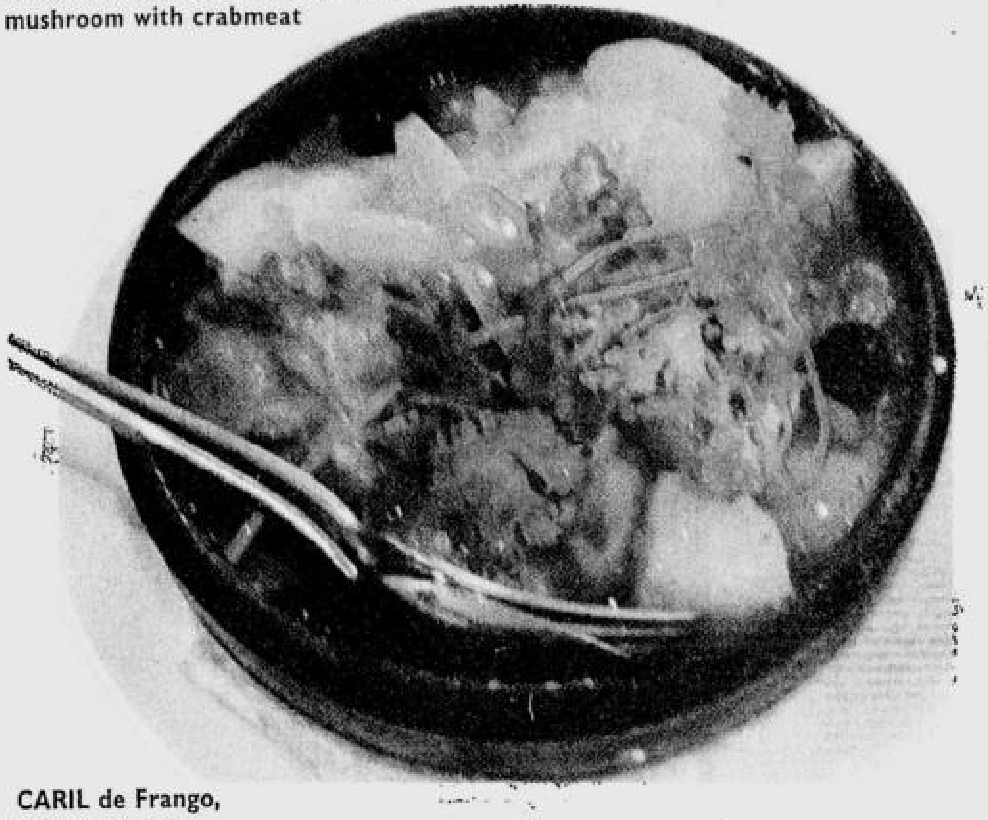
SASHIMI No Moriawase (mixed sashimi)

CREATIVE partnership: Pablo and Nikki Capati

SIMPLE AND CLEAN. Rokuro Izakaya goes back to narra tables and benches.



MARÉ d'O Porto Interior, cream of mushroom with crabmeat



CARIL de Frango, chicken curry

A delightful cuisine called Macanese

From page D1

There are also snacks with a touch of the local flair, such as Cestinho de Fritos Macaenses (Basket of Macanese Fried Snacks), that includes, among others, the Indian-inspired spicy beef curry cake and fried sweet potatoes. And there's the filling Maré d'O Porto Interior, creamy mushroom and crabmeat soup in a bread bowl that can stand on its own as a meal.

The Galinha Africana (African chicken), crispy grilled chicken cut into pieces, with just the right amount of spice and piquancy, is a winner. If fowl is your thing, there's always the ultra spicy Galinha Piri-Piri. Although *piri-piri* is small in size, it makes for one fiery-hot pepper sauce, and so this chicken is best taken as *pulutan*.

'Lechon'

Filipinos are naturally inclined to feel superior about the ubiquitous *lechon*. We consider ourselves "experts" on its preparation, and thus tend to be cynical when served one elsewhere.

The Leitão Assado, however, is a culinary delight worth every piece of its crunchy and crispy skin, roasted deep red, shimmering in its own fat, with tasty tender meat. Much like the famous *lechon* of Cebu, it is excellent on its own even without the *sarsa*.

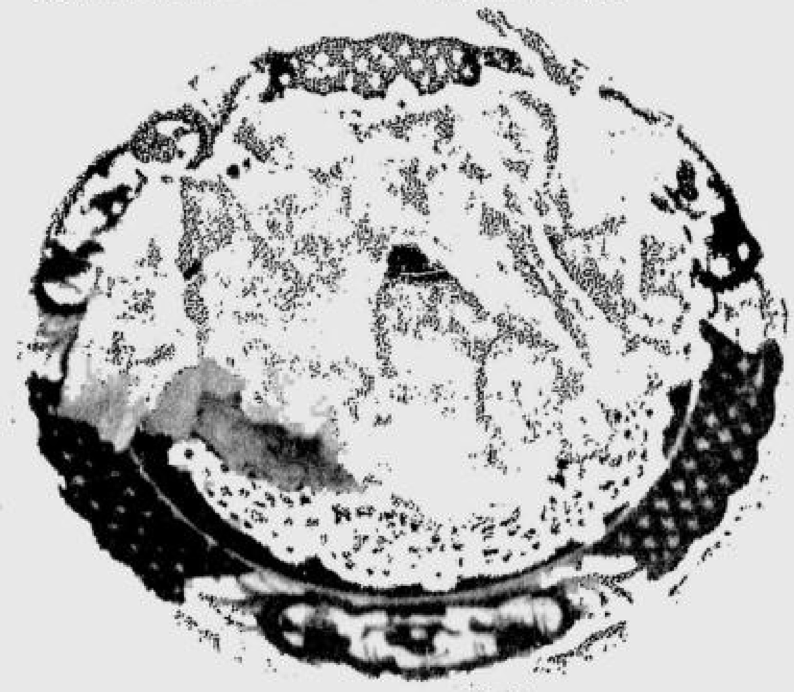
For variety, there's the 360 Café, a revolving restaurant at the 338-m Macau Tower Convention and Entertainment Centre that serves a buffet of international cuisine. Best dining-out place in town in the evening, when the colorful city lights and long stretch of lighted bridges make a beautiful backdrop. Yes, it's got ambience. Romantic? Perhaps, but it also gives a peaceful view of the world from a distance.

Drop by Rua do Tessara, Coloane Town Square, where the original Lord Stow's Bakery is situated. Amid the rustic milieu of Coloane, this bakery unarguably still produces the best egg tarts in the world.

Feasting your eyes on its magnificent baroque architecture as you walk Macau's cobblestone streets is never enough a tour. To understand Macau and its people, you must have a bite, tickle the taste buds and indulge the senses in a delightful repast they call Macanese.

For more information on Macau, call Macau Government Tourist Office Philippine representative Jet Cabuslay at 830-2005/2013 and 813-4781, or e-mail mgtophil @info.com.ph. Cebu Pacific flies twice daily to Hong Kong.

E-mail the author at ajambora @inquirer.com.ph



CESTINHO de fritos Macaenses, assorted Macanese fried snacks

CULINARY PLANNERS. (Standing, from left) Eloisa Sandalo, Serge Lim, Marita Arambulo, Maria Catral, Alvin Geronimo, Chary Cabillada, Lyndon Angan, (seated) Lita Urbina, Bernadette Jingco and Cebu City Vice Mayor Michael Rama

Queen City readies for culinary forum

THE HOTEL Resort and Restaurant Association of Cebu (HRRAC) will once again highlight the art of food and beverage preparation with its annual event called Cebu Goes Culinary 2002, with this year's theme, "Cebu Goes Global." The event will be held on July 27-28 at the exhibit hall of Waterfront Cebu City Hotel.

Event overall chair Jessica Avila says the forum will gather the best talents in the food and beverage industry "in the spirit of healthy competition to share fresh ideas and knowledge."

Culinary enthusiasts may join in either the professional or student division and may choose from more than 28 competition categories under the Food Presentation Exhibit, On the Spot Cooking Preparation and the Student Division Cooking Preparation.

International event organizer IMS International (Inter-Reliance Management Services) will also showcase the latest kitchen equipment available for hotels and catering companies.

The event is supported in part by HRRAC member Islands Souvenirs.

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Reggie Aspiras' classes in July

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts, located at Bon Apetit, 3/F Shangri-La Plaza Mall, announces its classes for the month of July. The schedule is as follows:

July 19, Imperial Japanese—New Tempura Recipe and New Ingredients, which is a must for all tempura lovers. The sauce recipe is from the Chief Emperor Akihito.

July 20, Gourmet Bagoong—Binagoongang Sinigang na Baboy sa Pestong Kangkong, Baked Fish with Fried Bagoong, Honey Bagoong Chicken Barbeque, Brubggeh Tamales, Bagoong Stuffed Chicken.

July 22, Classic Spanish Tapas—Learn 12 authentic Spanish tapas, from Tortilla Española, Gambas al Ajillo, Chiperones En Su Tinta to Fried Seafood with Gazpacho Sauce.

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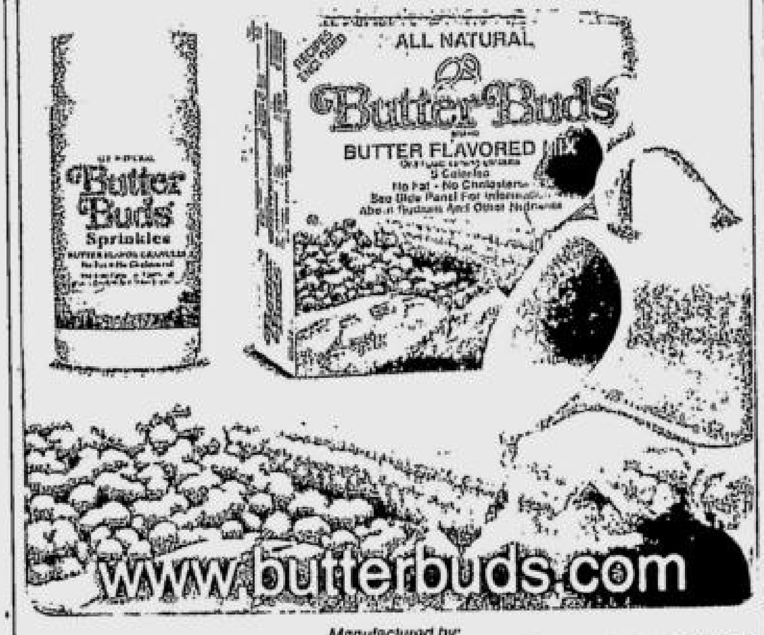
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Kublai's
HONG KONG'S
MONGOLIAN
GRILL

SAMPLES of Kublai's Mongolian food at the Podium cooking show

Guess what kids did last summer

THE PODIUM, Ortigas Center's upscale mall, became home to young cooking enthusiasts last summer when Le Cordon Bleu Manille, the country's premiere cooking school, held its first Young Summer Gourmet Show there.

The students experienced hands-on activities and training with the mall's food tenants. Among the participants were Burgoo, Banana Leaf Curry House, Steak Factory by Melo's, Pagliacci, Café Breton, Döme Café, Goodies and Treats, Kublai's, Yaku, and Thai-in-a-Box.

The summer-long training "represented the culmination of a summer-long effort to open our students' taste buds to the wonders of gourmet cooking," said Loudette Dayrit, who has ably taken over from her mother, Pat Dayrit, the founder of the cooking school in 1948.

"The students were not only taught cooking, but entrepreneurship as well. This included greeting customers who would enter the participating outlets, proper etiquette, and, of course, cooking and preparing gourmet food," added Dayrit. "They saw the inside story of the food world and developed very important traits like patience, perseverance, resourcefulness and creativity."

Their training was priceless. Chef Maurizzio Gibillini of Pagliacci, for instance, taught them how to cook Italian food, while they had their taste of Mongolian food at Kublai's. They likewise were taught cookie decorating at Goodies and Treats, and Japanese food and beverage presentation at Yaku with the help of Jason Webb.

The kids had a chance to serve customers at Dome Café and Banana Leaf, as well as greet customers at Burgoo. At Steak Factory by Melo's, they were taught table manners, fine dining etiquette and the different techniques of table napkin folding.

DÖME Café at the Podium was one of the training partners of this year's summer workshop

YAKU
JAPANESE GRILL

JASON Webb of Yaku Japanese Grill with the students of Le Cordon Bleu Manille: Kristin Co, Jamie Mabanta and Mikaela Hahn

CHEFS OF TOMORROW. Le Cordon Bleu Manille directress Loudette Dayrit (right) with Edmon Bautista of Thai In A Box (left) and the graduates of Le Cordon Bleu's Entréchef course: (first row) Cristina Puno, Jarrah Lim, Georgia Macapagal, (second row) Enzo Calo, Vernice Tantuco and Patricia Lugue

KITCHEN KIDDIES. Georgia Macapagal, Jarrah Lim and Cristina Puno enjoyed and learned a lot from their training at Steak Factory by Melo's.

MOTORING

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

'Unseen forces' at work on vehicles

Text and photos
by Tessa R. Salazar

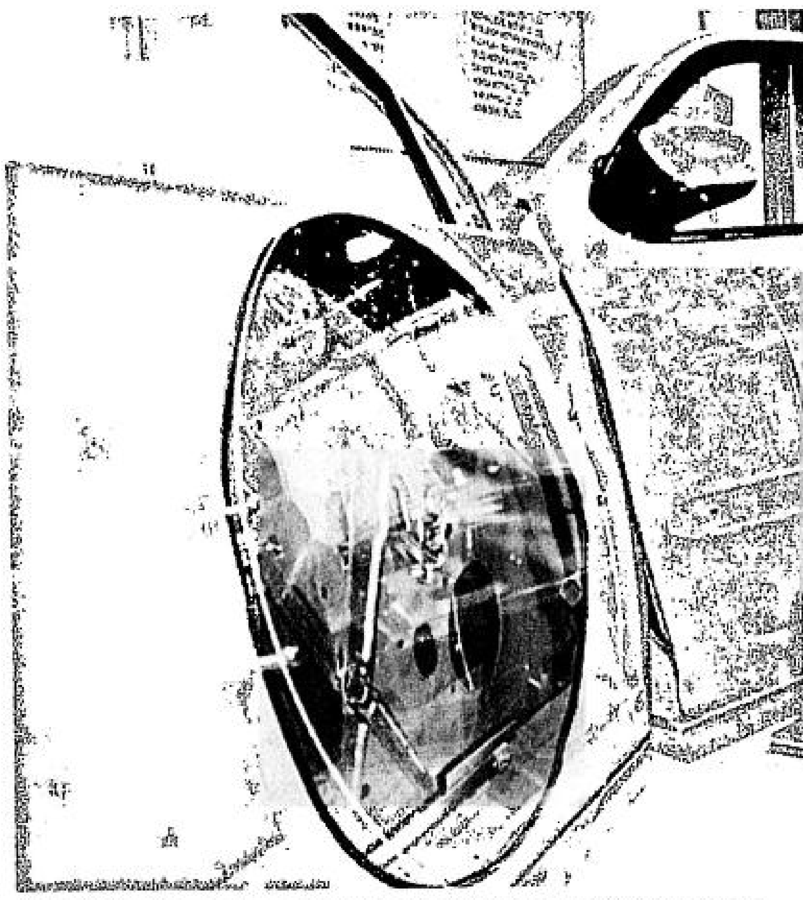
YOUR brake pedals are pushed out toward you when you collide head-on. When the impact is strong enough, the brake and clutch pedals can even wrap around your feet.

Such are the gory, but not entirely fictional, ways your car's parts can act during accidents. Thus, car parts makers urge you to take a closer look at all your car's little details, down to the last nut and bolt.

Reliable pedal structure

So, if you're wondering what the solution is for wayward pedals, a system called F-tech design is said to be a reliable pedal structure to prevent further injury to drivers during accidents.

Maker F-Tech Inc. says brake pedals are designed with "anti-backward motion," otherwise known as "anti-backward brake pedal system."



A SHOWCASE of auto parts and components opens windows to the manufacturers

F-Tech Inc. was just one of the notable exhibitors during the fourth conference on Asean auto supporting industries. There are more alternatives to doubtful parts as there were exhibitors. Steering wheels, car seats, spark plugs, transmission, and even on-board sensors which, in the future, will guide motorists out of harm's way—are the components that you would eventually use every day of your motoring life. Though you wouldn't normally bother to know who makes such parts, or how they are made, the auto industry and the government have quietly supported the auto parts and components makers. They also have continuously urged the industry to improve their quality, cost of production and product development as well as to put motorists' safety as their primary concerns.

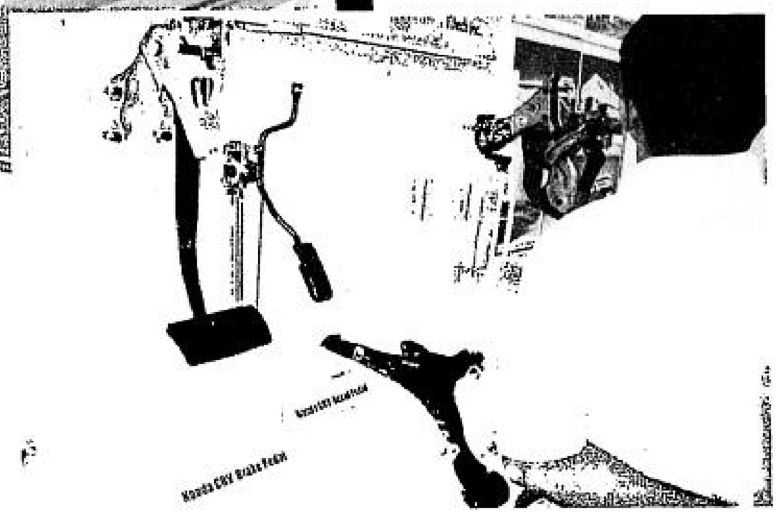
Tribute

Last week, the Japan External Trade Organization and its co-organizers the Asean Automotive Federation (now headed by Filipino president Vicente Mills), Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association Inc. and Japan Auto Parts Industries Association paid tribute to these makers, also called the auto supporting industries.

The fourth conference on Asean auto supporting industries, held recently at the World Trade Center, was made up of expositions, exhibitions, meetings, and seminars. The event featured 22 Japanese manufacturing firms (12 automakers and 10 auto parts companies).

Not exclusive

The exhibition may have been dominated by Japanese makers, but it was not exclusive to them. Joint ventures between Filipino- and Japanese-owned auto parts and components companies, purely Filipino auto parts makers and those from other Asean countries also participated and received more than 1,200 visitors. Case studies of successful Asean suppliers such as Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand were presented.



DRUMMING up interest on pedals

The exhibit nurtured automotive-related supporting industries in the Asean region through a showcase of products seen by automakers. It is expected that local procurement of parts by automobile and parts components manufacturers in the Asean region would be expanded. This was also a venue for seminars on strengthening the competitiveness of auto suppliers.

This event also made automakers rate for themselves the best auto parts and components, and which needed improvement. New partnerships were also planned and discussed.

Said Frank Nacua, council member for the Philippines of the Asean Automotive Federation: "Intertrade is very important because products here are actually seen. This is the time that you sit down and talk with auto parts makers and auto manufacturers, as most of what you would need are all here." He added that events like these give opportunities to Filipino auto parts and components makers to showcase their products without having to physically peddle these from one country to another.

"The auto parts industry is a very important propeller to jumpstart the economy. Infrastructure of the auto industry will contribute to the other industries in terms of technology development so that auto parts makers can produce sophisticated products," said Masahiro Suzuki, Jetro executive director.

Noboru Inamoto, director general of Jetro headquarter's economic development assistance, said the organization previously supported the electronics industry. Now it is the turn of the Asean auto suppliers to be strengthened.

Globally competitive

Trade Secretary Mar Roxas II said during his keynote speech on July 9 that the Philippine auto industry—both built up and components—can be globally competitive with positive government intervention.

"Our government is undertaking a top-to-bottom review of policies affecting the auto industry," he said.

Among the policies being reviewed are excise taxes, second-hand importation and promotion of both the built-up and components sectors of the auto industry.

The Japanese carmakers gave their auto parts makers a "pat on the back" and gave information and expectations to all Asean suppliers. In the end, building reliable vehicles that would be enjoyed by customers surfaced as the common goal.

Alabang mall holds car show

CAR aficionados, auto shops and car clubs gathered as Alabang Town Center recently mounted the "Motor Town 2002 ATC Car Show."

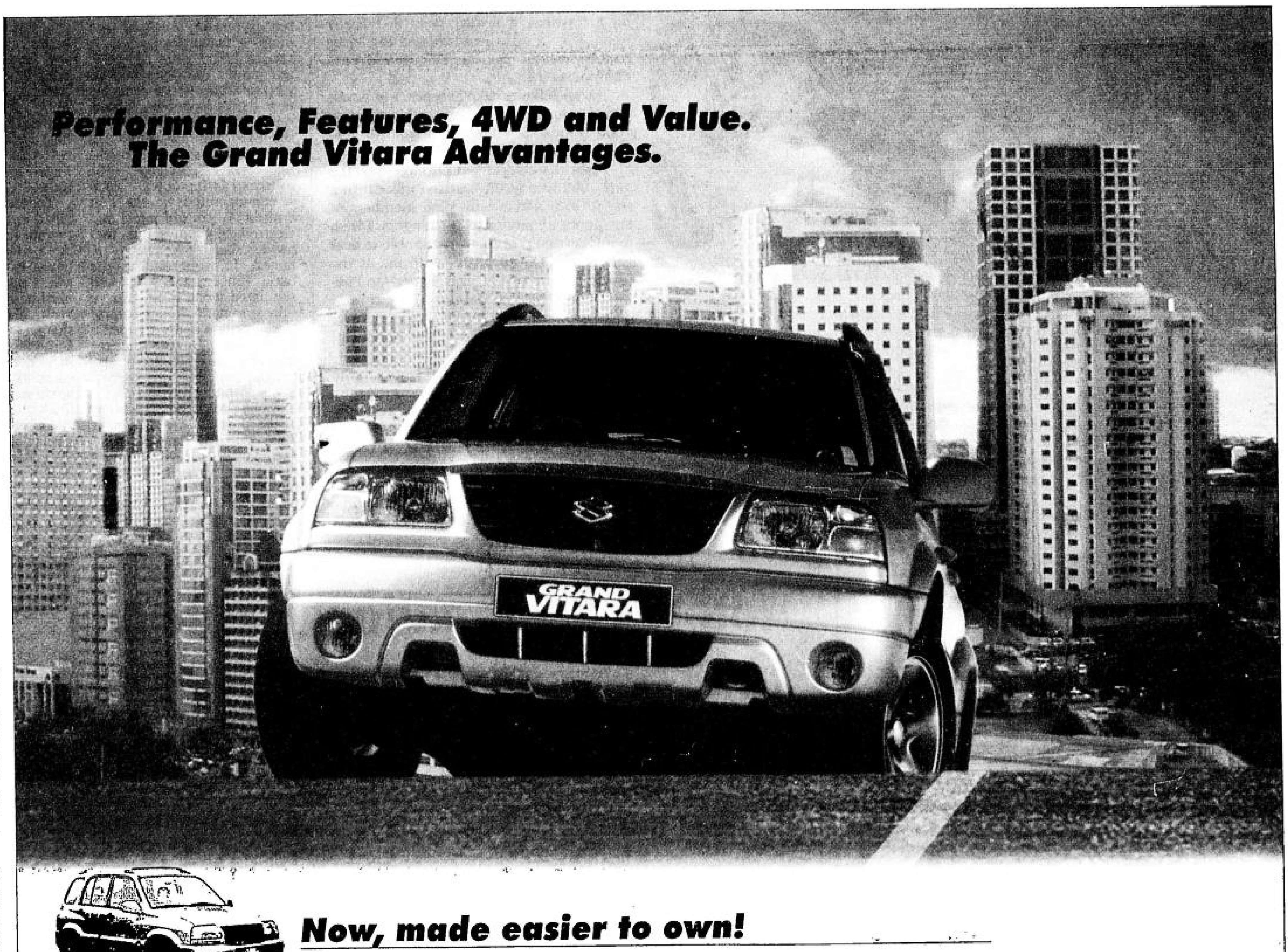
The 10-day exhibit was highlighted by the Best In Car Display where several vintage, modified and contemporary cars competed.

Winning the Best in Car Display Award was 25-year-old Michael Villarba for his impressive setup of a Nissan Exalta 1999, complete with sound-surround car video DVD and VCD system. The car also won first place for Best in Paint, Best in Interior in the Japanese division, and second place for Best in Engine Display.

The People's Choice Award was given to Jupiter Naynes' Toyota Corolla GTV 1989 which also won first place for Best in Engine Display, second for Best in Paint and Best in Interior in the Japanese division.

A 1989 Mini Cooper Rover owned by Christian Aguilar was voted as the Best European Car as well as Best in Engine Display, Paint and Interior Awards. Boy Ochoa's flashy Mini Cooper Rover 2002 won the Millennium Car Award while vintage car collector Hermie Espeleta's MGA 1958 Convertible took home the Vintage Car Award. A Ford Mustang 1966 entry of Streetglow Autoworks bagged the first place for Best American Car.

The winners were recognized during the awarding ceremonies held on June 15.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1243 Series of 2002

'Mobile videoke bar'

By Tessa R. Salazar

CROSSWIND XUV's newest sistah: XUVi

SHE turns up in the middle of a storm, a flood on July 12, that's who she is.

The point, however, is that the Crosswind XUVi, the high-end sister of the Crosswind model units, promises to work up her own storm this rainy season as Filipinos, known for their singing dexterity, would be given the opportunity to belt it out in the XUVi's videoke system entertainment package.

The XUVi sports an MPEG audio unit with single in-dash CD player, two 5.6-inch headrest mounted LCD monitors, two wireless microphones with a remote control. To make the XUVi a total entertainment venue, movies can be played when your voices need to rest, for the time being. Six cup holders, backseat tray and map lamps complete the videoke bar treat.

Powered by a 2.5-liter 4-cylinder OHV turbodiesel engine, the XUVi is available only with 4-speed automatic transmission. It maintains the XUV exterior dimensions of 4,805 mm in length; 1,770 mm in width and 1,890 mm in height. Isuzu Philippines also dressed the seats with Montana beige leather with the same material used for the leather inserts of the door trim.

A fleck of sportiness added to the treat. The XUVi sports a four-spoke wrap-around leather steering wheel and a leather-wrapped parking brake lever with perforation accents or tiny holes in the leather. It also sports a special monotone body color: ebony black or caribbean gold. The bumper overrider, according to Isuzu Philippines, is now rendered in body color with stainless garnish. The rear bumper is dressed with an integrated chrome-plated stepboard with anti-slip molding. The wheels sport a 15-inch titanium silver-painted alloys.

Sorry, Mr. or Ms Driver, you will have to sing another time. The LCD display is located just behind you. So, please pass the mike and keep your eye on the road, not on the lyrics.

China's rich go gaga over flashy, expensive cars

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

THE BEIJING Auto Show recently was a hit, not so much on the issue of flashy, expensive cars on exhibit like a Bentley and a Lotus but because of the enthusiasm exhibited by China's new generation of fun-seekers and funds-loving folk. Not since the Cultural Revolution do we now see so much drastic, if not dramatic, changes occurring in the once ideologue-driven country isolated from the world by that now infamous Bamboo Curtain, torn down some years back.

Just recently, the said motor show flushed out China's new breed of capitalists hungry for anything that has to do with luxury: vacation houses, beach-front villas and, yes, expensive cars.

"We are looking at the spawning of a generation of young entrepreneurs," Kenneth Tsang, chief executive of the Beijing operations of Bentley Motor Cars, told Reuters. "They have not only money but also a passion for driving."

What was considered a crime during the Mao Zedong era when one owning even the most battered transistor radio was taboo, flaunting one's wealth seems now to be the "in-thing" in China. Since the day Deng Hsiao Ping destroyed Mao's rigid view of society as "for the people only" by allowing each of China's billions to own "a little private property," there is now a generation of very young millionaires who wallow in wealth.

During the auto show, Reuters reported that thousands of people elbowed each other for a glimpse of some of the "fastest and most expensive driving machines on the planet."

Many of China's wealthy are now being chauffeured about. It's become a status if one has a driver in China.

Since Ferrari penetrated the China market some 10 years ago, life has never been the same for China's emerging elite. The German Porsche recently entered the world's most populous country; it reportedly sells a dozen cars a year.

Even the expensive Maserati of Italy, now under the control of Ferrari, has opened shop in Beijing. The Audi unit of Germany's Volkswagen, too.

Said a Volkswagen executive: "I know men who get up at 3 in the morning and drive to the airport and back just so they know what it's like to drive at 200 kph (125 mph)."

From Beijing, Bentley is now also in Shanghai and Shenzshen. Already, the outfit has taken deposits on nearly 10 cars. Verbal agreements have brought the total to almost 20. If you ask me, that's a lot of money. In pesos, one Bentley alone costs millions.

The buyers include property developers, manufacturers and high-tech moguls in their early 40s. Simply put, they were the kids when Mao's bloody purge of reactionaries was on during the Cultural Revolution.

Bentley's strongest markets are still the United States and Europe, with sales of 400 to 600 cars a year. Bentley made 1,800 cars last year.

Aside from the Bentley and, to some extent the Rolls Royce, China's rich now ordinarily own a Mercedes-Benz, a BMW and the stylish Volkswagen Audi.

"And more hunger for more," said Tsang. "It is something to massage the ego. It is an instrument with which to mark their success."

* * *

Here's an interesting letter in defense of Honda's move to transform the CR-V from SUV into AUV. The letter came from Rolando P. Navarro, a lawyer from 851 Pasay Road, Makati City. He addressed the letter to Kenji Otaka, president of Honda Cars Philippines Inc.

"I would like to take exception to newspaper reports falsely alleging that the new 2002 Honda CR-V could not seat 10 people.

"I recently bought from Honda Makati a new 2002 Honda CR-V. I used this car to a trip to Pangasinan with nine members of my family, all adults, as passengers. I wish to inform you that the car was able to seat comfortably all 10 of us—with me as the driver and the rest as passengers—to Pangasinan and back to Manila.

"Please relay this to the Department of Trade and Industry and to the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

"If need be, I am willing to testify in the presence of the functionaries of these government agencies to confirm the accuracy and truthfulness of my statement."

I believe Min, Tintin and Danzel raised their glasses to toast Arnel on this.

* * *

QUOTE ME. A car used to be a status symbol. Today, it is but a tool to shorten one's traveling time.

The 2002 Cefiro: Driver-friendly for the driven

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

WHEN Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. introduced the first generation Cefiro Brougham two years ago, it was marketed as a mid-luxury sedan "reserved for the driven." Which meant that to fully enjoy its creature comforts such as rear-seat power massager and retractable footrest, you had to sit in the back and be driven by a driver.

But apparently, so many Cefiro Brougham owners took the wheel themselves and liked driving it so much that Nissan has made several minor changes in the passenger cabin. The changes make the all-new 2002 Brougham VIP even more driver-friendly for the driven who also enjoy driving sometimes.

For starters, a heads-up digital speed display like that of the Sentra Exalta Grandeur has been installed in the new Brougham VIP for easier monitoring of travel speed. A digital rear distance warning system in the rear-view mirror informs you about obstacles when reversing, together with the warning sounds of the rear backup sensor. Active head restraints for the driver and front-seat passenger reduce the risk of whiplash injury as they are designed to move forward and upward to support the head in case the car is rear-ended.

Euro touches

Instead of a hand brake, the new Cefiro has a foot press parking brake and brake release handle in the dash, which leaves enough space in the center console up front for two chromed cupholders. European-style paddles on the steering wheel enable you to activate cruise control or adjust the radio tuner and audio volume without taking your hands off the wheel. A classic design white-face analogue clock adds another Euro touch.

Otherwise, the other features found in the previous Cefiro Brougham's front cabin are replayed in the 2002 iteration, such as power captain seats for the driver and front seat passenger, overhead map lamps with sunglass holder. In the back-seat area, the rear seat power massager and retractable footrest are gone, but new things have been added: rear cabin aircon vents, sunshades for the side windows, a third 3-point seat belt for the rear center passenger. The overhead flip-down LCD screen operated via the rear armrest AV control panel and electronically adjustable rear power seats have been retained. In front and in the back, full leather seats and simulated wood grain trim, a fully automatic climate control aircon system and a six-speaker, six-disc CD/VCD changer complete the ambience of luxury and comfort.

Winning formula

Having cornered 30 percent of the medium car market in 2001 with the Cefiro, Nissan decided not to revise its winning formula. As in the high-quality interior, there are no major changes in the exterior of the Brougham except for a hood ornament (which is, incidentally, only found in top-end Nissan cars in Japan such as the Cima, the Cedric and the Laurel), multiparabola headlights and shapelier taillights. The distinctive black and gray exterior color scheme and chrome wing decal setting the P1,680,000 Brougham apart from the P1,360,000 Cefiro Elite remain.

So do the safety features such as dual airbags, 4-channel ABS with electronic brake force distribution and brake assist system, 4-wheel disc brakes, front and rear crumple zones, energy-absorbing steering column and knee bolsters, speed-sensing automatic door locks, keyless entry with trunk lid remote control, alarm system and engine immobilizer.

But the real value of the Cefiro is its 24-valve 2.0-liter dual overhead camshaft V6 engine, which was voted to Ward's Auto World's list of "10 Best Engines" for the eighth consecutive year. Maximum torque of the Cefiro's VQ20DE gasoline engine has been increased to 19.3 kg-m/4,000 rpm by refining the camshaft tuning and improving the efficiency and heat insulation properties of the air intake system. The new Cefiro can avail of more torque at low and medium engine speeds because of a new rotary valve-type variable intake system.

Power in a whisper

The Cefiro's compact, all-aluminum engine produces smooth V8-like response and performance (max power is 165 ps/6,400 rpm) but at the same time is as fuel-efficient as some 4-cylinder engines. Nissan achieved this by applying advanced racing technologies such as micro-finishing of the camshaft and crankshaft, molybdenum coating of piston skirts and using smaller piston areas and thinner piston rings. A new two-stage cooling system design, digital knock control system, platinum spark plugs, chain camshaft drive (instead of a belt) and 3-way catalytic converter help prevent engine knock, reduce emissions and enhance durability.

The Cefiro's V6 powerplant, allied to a smooth 4-speed automatic transmission with overdrive, delivers 165 ps horsepower in a whisper due to Nissan's superb noise-vibration-harshness dampening system. With all these qualities plus sharper handling, improved cornering stability and enhanced riding comfort provided by its redesigned multi-link beam suspension, the 2002 Cefiro Brougham VIP is an elegant mid-sized touring car that is as exhilarating to drive as it is a silky pleasure to ride.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Yield to the Princess.

* * *

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What does nitrous oxide do for a car?
—Apollo del Mundo of Sampaloc, Manila

IN RACING, nitrous oxide or N_2O is injected into the air intake to increase power. How does it do that? First of all, when N_2O reaches a certain temperature, it breaks down and releases extra oxygen. Secondly, when the liquid in the tank vaporizes, it comes out extremely cold. The combination of these two effects allows you to cram a lot more oxygen into your cylinders. This extra oxygen creates additional power by allowing more fuel to be burned.

The nitrogen component also acts to buffer, or dampen the increased cylinder pressures helping to control the combustion process. Now, exactly how much increased power are we talking about? For many applications, an improvement from 1 to 3 full seconds in the quarter mile can be expected. The cooling effect alone can produce enough extra power so that a 350 HP engine can gain as much as 25 extra horsepower. Needless to say, a lot of factors such as tires and gearing will affect the final results. Of course, you only use nitrous oxide when you need it. Although it is possible to hold the button down until the bottle is empty, 15 continuous seconds at a time, or less, is recommended.

N_2O is also sometimes incorrectly referred to as NOS. Those three letters are actually an acronym for Nitrous Oxide Systems, the world's largest marketer of nitrous oxide injection systems for automotive use.

One last thing, nitrous oxide is also known as "laughing gas" and its medical grade is used as a mild anesthetic. But improperly administered, it can result in irreversible brain damage. So don't ever try inhaling the stuff.

Motorex hosts national scale model open

THE COUNTRY'S newest motoring event, Motor Exhibition or Motorex, has been chosen by the International Plastic Modelers Society as the official venue for the IPMS-Philippines' 2002 National Scale Model Open competition, besting the more established motoring shows for the right to stage the prestigious scale modeling contest.

Terri Teruel, Motorex vice president for marketing, said the decision of the IPMS to pick Motorex can be attributed to the fact that the Motorex event concept exhibits not only land transport but sea craft and aircraft as well.

Organized by Exhibits in Action Corp. (Exact), Motorex, the "Total Philippine Transport Show," is slated from Sept. 7 to 15 at the Harrison Plaza Annex in Malate, Manila.

The 2002 National Scale Model Open will be an exhibit and open competition for plastic scale model aircraft, naval/sea craft, military vehicles, figures and dioramas. A fee of P50 will be charged per entry.

Awards will be given for best individual classes, as well as best fixed wing aircraft, best rotary wing aircraft, best naval/sea craft, best armed fighting vehicle and best figure. Trophies and certificates of participation will also be awarded.

There will be a mandatory contest preregistration on Sept. 5 and 6 at the Harrison Plaza Annex where participants will be required to submit duplicate forms of their entries prior to the contest proper. IPMS has already drawn a complete set of rules for the contest.

Motorex, which will also feature parts, accessories and allied products and services for land, air and sea transport, is organized by some of the most experienced events organizers in the country today. It is expected to equal, if not surpass, other motoring exhibits mainly focused on land transport.

For inquiries, call 400-8293 or 94 or e-mail exact@mozcom.com.

Role of STP oil treatment in today's vehicles

From p. E4

as small as possible. Motor oils, which are used under a wide range of engine operating temperatures, benefit from having high viscosity index numbers. Certain viscous chemical compounds called "polymers" or "polymeric compounds" have the ability to decrease the rate at which oils change viscosity with temperature. These compounds are called "Viscosity Index Improvers," and they make "multigrade" or "all season" oils possible over a wider range of operating temperatures.

- **Extreme pressure additives**—High-quality motor oils are fortified with effective boundary lubrication additives called extreme pressure or EP additive Because of higher unit loading, higher engine speeds, and the smaller size of certain parts, modern engines have many components that operate under boundary or extreme pressure lubrication conditions of the time.

- **Friction modifiers**—Some oils contain friction modifying additives to impart benefits of reducing fuel consumption. These can be either soluble or dispersed in the oil to form chemical or physically bonded films that reduce the friction of moving engine parts or oil flow in the engine.

STP Oil Treatment is a proprietary oil additive, which combines special ingredients to provide extra protection for the engine's specific needs. These properties have passed severe driving tests simulating real road conditions. In turn, STP fortified additives provide the protection required by today's modern, precision-built engines and boost the performance which the vehicle has been designed to do.

Rethinking the way cars are driven

By Charles E. Buban

BMW steps out of the box with a revolutionary design for its new 7 Series sedans

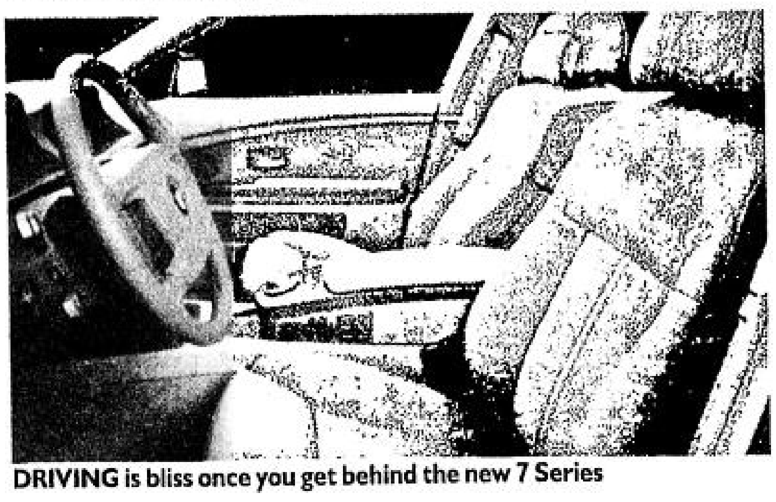
THE iDRIVE is located where the shift gear used to be

IT LOOKS like the BMW people have succeeded again in maintaining their vehicle's place at the top of every motoring journalist's list of "Things to buy when I hit the MegaLotto draw." Most of us even have the color and options picked out, just in case.

After spending several minutes tinkering with the controls inside a BMW 745i (on display at the BMW Club 7 inside the Enterprise Tower on Ayala, Makati City) and listening to Gábor Csurgai's (BMW Philippines service director) brief discourse on how they all work for the driver and its passenger, we were ready to declare it the most modern and technologically advanced production car in the market today.

BMW stepped out of the box with a revolutionary design for its new 7 Series sedans. According to its designer, the new car's shape communicates dynamism, performance, luxury and a commanding on-the-road experience. Indeed, the new 7 Series looks more muscular, more agile than before. Though the trademark twin-kidney grille and long hood make it clear that this is still a BMW, the look of the new 7 Series is a dramatic departure from past BMWs in every respect.

The 2002 7 Series is redesigned from the pavement up with a new and powerful 4.4 liter, 333 horsepower V8 engine, the world's first six-speed automatic transmission and an all-aluminum suspension with an optional Dynamic Drive system that provides for active suspension control. These are just for teasers as the wizards of Bavaria (the BMW headquarters in Germany) have indeed completely rethought the way this car will interact with its driver.



DRIVING is bliss once you get behind the new 7 Series

Said BMW Philippines president Mark Gilbert during the press launch: "The new 7 Series means more than just the introduction of a new model range. As our flagship model, the new BMW 7 Series sets the direction of BMW's new design philosophy. We have put aside previous, conventional strategies in the development, thus, not only were the entire body structure and chassis completely re-designed but also simultaneously the whole drivetrain, the engine and transmission."

Raising the bar

The 2002 7 Series stretches the bounds of driving technology to new horizons. Innovations like Valvetronic, Dynamic Drive and iDrive systems are significant, and they raise the bar for other super-luxury sedan manufacturers. In fact, the 745i is a heavyweight among contenders that include the Mercedes-Benz S-Class, Audi A8, Infiniti Q45 and Lexus LS 430.

Two 7 Series models are available for 2002: the 745i (P9.870 million) and the long-wheelbase 745Li (P10.860 million). The 745i rides on a 2,990 mm (117.7") wheelbase while the 745Li ride on a 3,137 mm (123.5") wheelbase.

BMW equipped the new 7 Series with a host of state-of-the-art active safety features designed to help drivers avoid accidents in the first place like the Active Cruise Control system that monitors the distance between the car and the vehicle ahead and adjusts speed accordingly to maintain a safe distance.

Safety is further enhanced with 12 air bags: two frontal air bags, two knee air bags, two side air bags and the Head Protection System, or HPS, which is a tube-shaped curtain designed for head protection in a side impact. The Active Head Restraints on the other hand, move the head rests closer when a collision is detected. As an option, side-impact air bags and the HPS are available for rear-seat passengers and an optional tire pressure monitor.

Don't forget the manual

The interior of the new 7 Series is a departure for BMW, especially the dash. Not only that much of the switchgear has been removed, but it is divided in half: things for the eyes above, things for fingers below. Despite the cockpit's minimalist design, you will need to consult the new 7 Series manual to be able to understand the complexities inside this awesome machine.

With so much to learn about its interior, you should allow a couple of hours training—and it starts with the car key. Instead of traditionally turning a key to mechanically trigger the ignition, BMW replaced it with a computerized card key that you insert into a slot in the dashboard. Then, you put a precautionary foot on the brake and push a button that electronically turns the car on.

You'll also miss that familiar sound when you put the 745i in gear or engage the parking brake since the transmission and the parking brake are both electronically activated. And don't forget that the gear shift is now mounted on a stalk behind the steering wheel, which looks much like a signal or wiper lever. It operates simply by pulling it forward then moving it upward for reverse and downward for drive. To select park, you must push a button at the end of the stalk.

Even the 745i's cruise control system has an interesting new feature: You can program up to five speeds in advance, then just press a button to have the car reach and hold on to that speed no matter how much you step on the gas.

Other functions that can also be accomplished with a simple push of a button are the trunk's opening and closing, the parking brake that electronically applies the mechanical parking brakes when the engine is off, or the normal hydraulic brakes when the engine is running. Also included are seat controls that even adjust thigh support and backrest width.

Innovative device

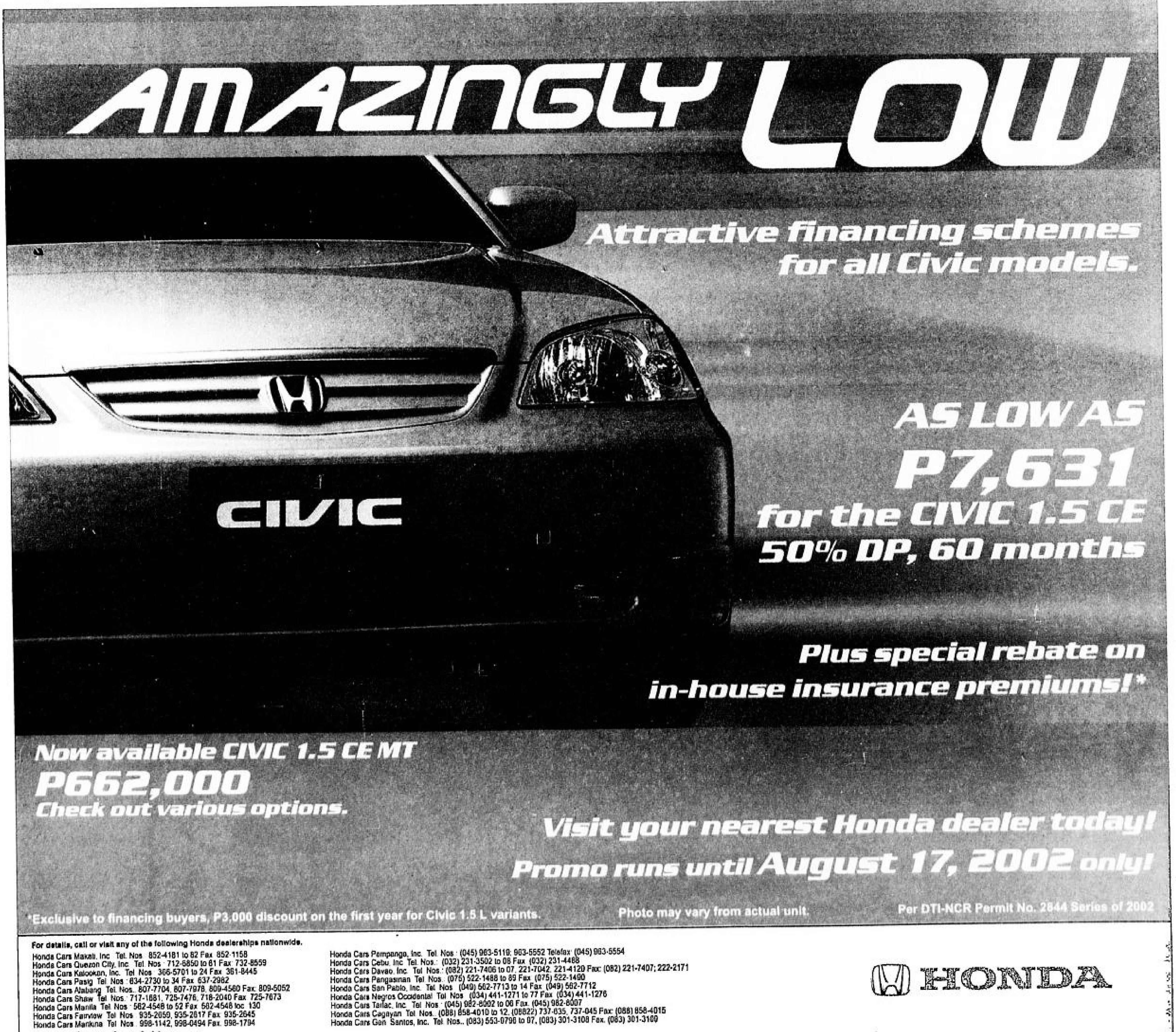
Probably, the most interesting device—and toughest to master—inside the 745i is the innovative iDrive system. The system is operated via an aluminum mouse, called the "Controller," which sits on the center console between the front seats. This is where you will really need some practice.

It works by pushing it in any of eight directions to make your selection and then rotating it like any other dial to select what you want on the on-screen menu. Once you find what you want, press down on the knob and select it.

The iDrive is capable of more than 800 functions and the first four functions are the most commonly used and are available by moving the controller North, South, East or West. The remaining functions are accessed by moving the controller diagonally. The eight function areas are:

- **Communication (North)**—Manages the telephone dialing and SMS text messages.
- **Navigation (East)**—Hooks you up to a GPS navigation system and on-board trip computer, but these functions will not be available here in the Philippines.
- **Entertainment (South)**—Controls the radio tuner, cassette, CD and TV, including the multi-function tone levels.
- **Climate Control (West)**—Programs the advanced climate controls, individual ventilators, air statification and temperature distribution on seat heating.
- **BMW Assist (Northwest)**— Contacts the hotline for BMW service team and other helpful info. This function, however, will not be available here in the Philippines.
- **On-board data (Northeast)**—Sets the on-board computer, trip computer, speed limits, next service detail and checks or controls the status of the car's systems.
- **Help (Southeast)**—Displays the help menu on how to use the iDrive system.
- **Settings (Southwest)**—Sets the date and time, language, units of measurement, activation of Park Distance Control graphics, Electronic Damper Control systems and programming of star button on the steering wheel.

There are just too many other interesting features of the 7 Series and we wonder if this predicts the future of driving. Are cars transforming into intelligent transporters that hardly need drivers or will BMW stay true to its "Ultimate Driving Machine" heritage and not forego the qualities that made the automotive brand an enthusiast's dream? Only time will tell.



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Role of STP oil treatment in today's vehicles

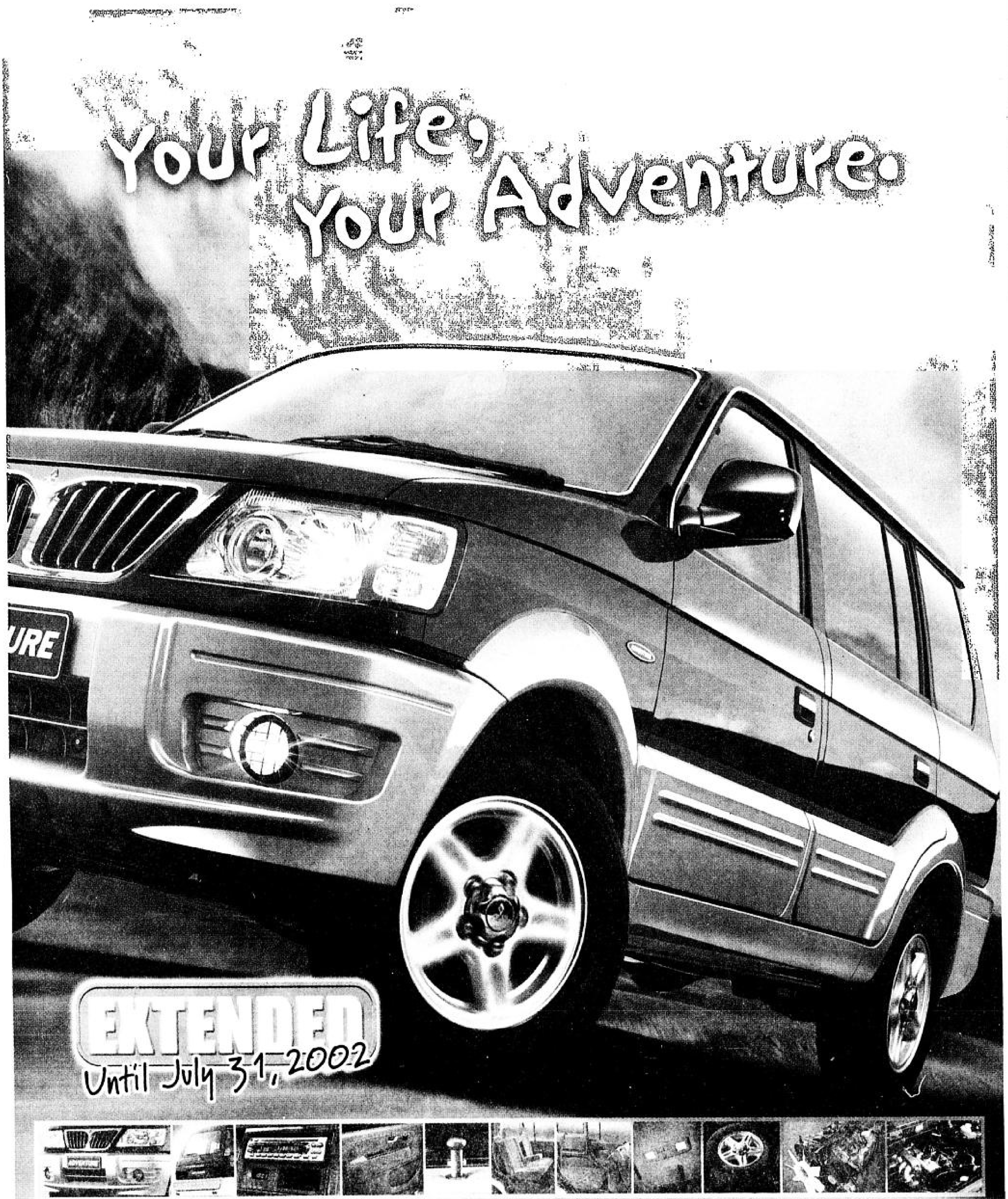
NOT all motor oil additives are made equal. Only the perfect balance of fully fortified oils can provide the protection required by today's modern, precision-built engines.

For one, there is the after-market oil additive like STP (Scientifically Treated Petroleum) which can effectively boost the protective properties of motor oil. Having many different additives alone won't do for motor oils. It has to have the STP oil treatment's exceptional properties to elevate protection and performance to a higher level.

Some of the motor oil additives being supplemented by STP oil treatment are:

- **Oxidation and bearing corrosion inhibitors**—Motor oils need to have a chemical compound that is capable of interrupting or slowing down the rate of oil oxidation, which results in permanent thickening of the oil. This is brought about by excessive engine heat that can attack some bearing metals. Oxidation inhibitors accomplish the job by slowing down the high-temperature oil deterioration process, while bearing corrosion inhibitors form a protective coating on sensitive bearing metals.
- **Rust and corrosion inhibitors**—Rust and corrosion produced by water and corrosive acids from the combustion process can cause serious problems in today's engines. This can be solved by using chemical additives that act in several ways. Combustion acids can be neutralized by alkaline materials, so oil-soluble alkaline components in motor oils should be sufficient. Oil-soluble chemicals with a greater affinity for metal than water protect against rust by preventing contact between metal and water. They do this by forming an unbroken film on engine parts that is resistant to attacks by water.
- **Detergent/dispersants additives**—These are chemicals added to motor oils to help prevent combustion byproducts from forming harmful sludge or varnish deposits. These additives keep combustion byproducts suspended in so fine a form that they minimize deposits. Detergent/dispersants help reduce varnish buildup by dispersing the varnish-forming contaminants in the crankcase and preventing them from combining to form larger and potentially harmful particles.
- **Viscosity index improvers**—The viscosity of oil varies with changes in temperature—thinner when hot, thicker when cold. When an oil is used at a variety of operating temperatures, as it is in an automobile engine, the change of viscosity with temperature variation should be

ROLE/ p. E2



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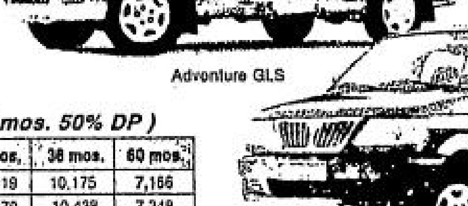
Adventure GLS

Adventure GLX

Low D/P Plan

Model	SRP	20% D/P	24 mos.	36 mos.
GL Diesel M/T	611,000	102,200	24,407	17,374
GLX Gas M/T	645,000	99,000	25,766	18,341
Diesel M/T	670,000	90,000	26,764	19,052
GLS Gas M/T	705,000	90,000	28,162	20,047
GLS Sport Gas M/T	698,000	139,600	27,883	19,848
Sport Diesel	713,000	142,600	28,482	20,275
GLS Diesel M/T	720,000	90,000	28,762	20,474
Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	114,000	30,769	21,896
Super Sport Gas M/T	750,000	115,000	29,960	21,327
Gas A/T	790,000	123,000	31,558	22,464

**60mos. 50% D/P

Low Monthly Plan / Zero Interest Plans*(12-18mos. 50% DP)

Model	SRP	50% D/P	12 mos.	18 mos.	36 mos.	60 mos.
GL Diesel M/T	611,000	305,500	26,046	17,919	10,175	7,166
GLX Gas M/T	645,000	322,500	*26,875	18,370	10,438	7,348
Diesel M/T	670,000	335,000	*27,917	19,153	10,882	7,661
GLS Gas M/T	705,000	352,500	*29,375	*19,583	10,786	7,589
GLS Sport Gas M/T	698,000	349,000	31,795	21,874	12,405	8,742
Sport Diesel	713,000	356,500	32,478	22,344	12,672	8,929
GLS Diesel M/T	720,000	360,000	*30,000	*20,000	10,951	7,704
Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	385,000	*32,083	*21,389	12,318	8,671
Super Sport Gas M/T	750,000	375,000	*31,250	21,353	12,133	8,542
Gas A/T	790,000	395,000	*32,917	22,607	12,844	9,043

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